

An Overview of Louisiana's Medicaid and SCHIP Programs

This summary is intended to assist professionals who work in systems serving children, such as juvenile justice and child welfare. For more information about Medicaid and its key concepts as they relate to the juvenile justice system, see *A Medicaid Primer for Juvenile Justice Officials*.¹

As of January 2008, 1,007,188 adults and children were covered under Louisiana's Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).² Louisiana operates its SCHIP program as an expansion of Medicaid. There were 891,451 people enrolled in the Medicaid program and 115,737 children enrolled in SCHIP.³ In federal fiscal year 2005, approximately \$5.3 billion was spent for Medicaid services in Louisiana, and an additional \$126 million was spent for SCHIP services.⁴ (These figures include spending for both adults and children.) The federal government supplied 71 percent of the funding for Medicaid and 80 percent of the funding for SCHIP.⁵

COMMON PATHWAYS TO ELIGIBILITY

Children – ages 0-18

- *Program Name: CHAMP (Medicaid) or LaCHIP (SCHIP).*
 - : Income limit: up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).
 - : No asset limit.
 - : Some children with family income over 200 percent FPL may qualify through the Medically Needy pathway, which is for individuals with income below a state-established limit, or those above the state income limit who have incurred large health care expenses and "spend down" to the limit.
 - : Includes recipients of federal adoption assistance and foster care assistance under Title IV-E.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Related Recipients – no age limit

- *SSI Beneficiaries:*
 - : Income limit: up to 74 percent FPL and must meet federal SSI definition of disability.
 - : Some may qualify through the Medically Needy pathway (see above).
 - : Asset limit of \$2,000.
 - : Children who do not receive SSI payments, but meet all other eligibility qualifications may receive coverage under this category.
- *Children who qualify under the Family Opportunity Act:*
 - : Income limit: up to 300 percent FPL and must meet federal SSI definition of disability.
 - : For children under age 12 (will extend eligibility to all ages 0-18 in October 2008).

Parents of children under age 18 who qualify for Medicaid or SCHIP

- *Program Name: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance.*
 - : Income limit: up to approximately 12 percent FPL.
 - : No asset test.
- *Program Name: Low Income Families & Children (LIFC).*
 - : Families who meet 1996 Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) eligibility requirements but do not receive TANF.
 - : Income limit: varies between 8-15 percent FPL depending upon household size.
 - : No asset test.
- *Program Name: Transitional Medicaid.*
 - : For former recipients of TANF or LIFC whose income increases beyond program income limits (up to 185 percent FPL).
 - : Continues Medicaid eligibility for an additional 6-12 months.

Pregnant Women – no age limit

- *Program Name: LaMOMS/CHAMP (Medicaid).*
 - : Income limit: up to 200 percent FPL.
 - : No asset test.
 - : Coverage extends from prenatal through two months postpartum.
 - : If mother was enrolled in program at the time of birth, the baby will receive services for one year.
- *Some may qualify through the Medically Needy pathway.*

Adults – ages 19-20

- *Program Name: Young Adult Program (YAP).*
 - : No income or asset limit.
 - : Must enroll and show progress in a vocational or educational program.
- *Pending state legislation may expand eligibility to all children aging out of foster care under age 21 who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid.*

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Take Charge – family planning services

- : Women ages 19-44 who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid.
- : Income limit: up to 200 percent FPL.
- : No asset limit.
- : Women with private health insurance are eligible to participate if private coverage does not cover all Take Charge family planning services.

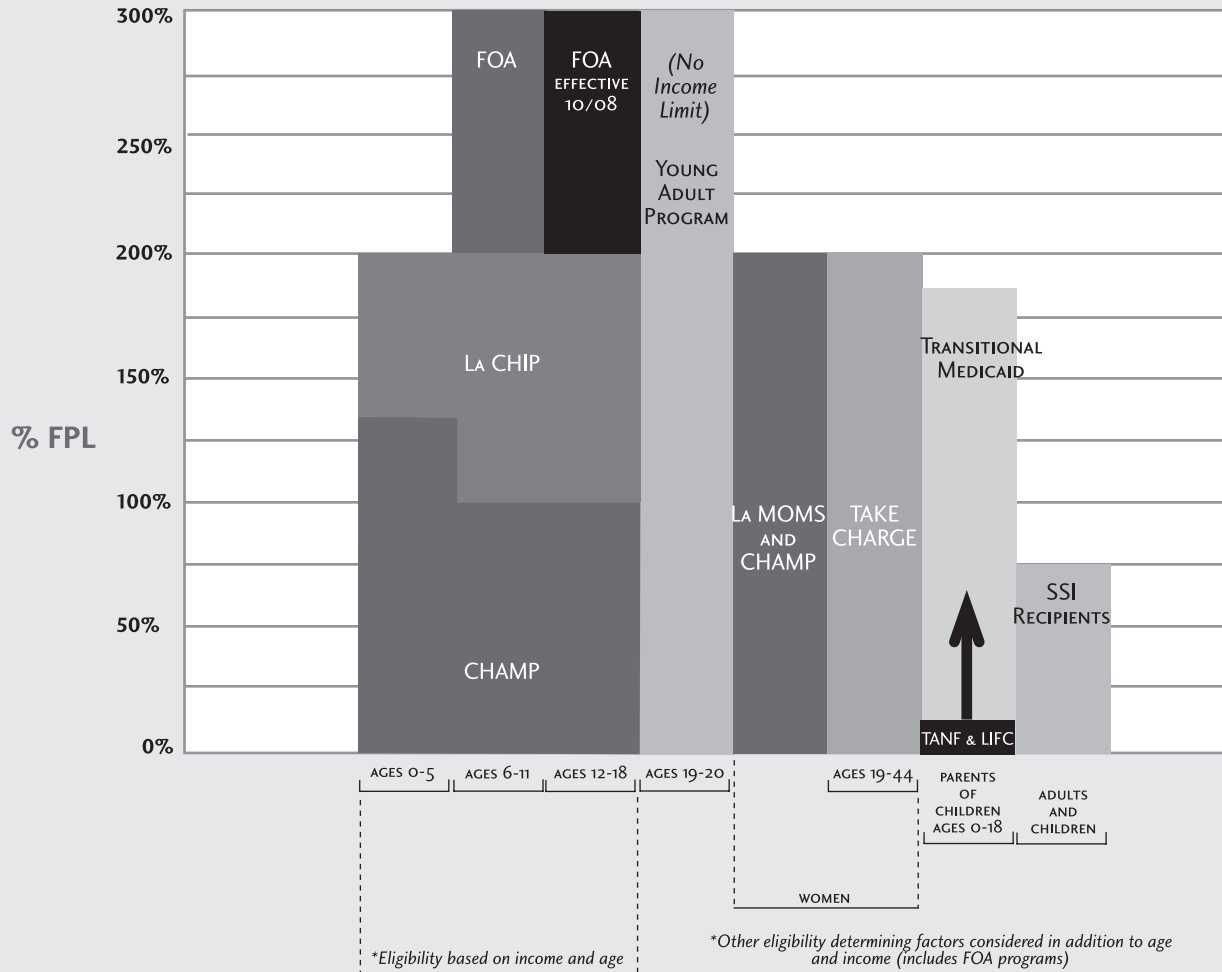
SERVICE DELIVERY

Louisiana operates a primary care case management (PCCM) program – CommunityCARE – for most Medicaid and SCHIP beneficiaries. However, all mental health and substance abuse services are “carved-out” and offered through an unmanaged fee-for-service system.

BENEFITS

Medicaid and SCHIP recipients under the age of 21 receive the EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment) benefit, which includes periodic comprehensive screening visits (well-child visits), and services needed to treat conditions. Under federal EPSDT law, all children are eligible to receive any medically necessary service that may be covered under federal Medicaid law (even if the state has decided not to cover the service for adults). Some EPSDT services include transportation, dental care, mental health services, substance abuse services, and prescription drug coverage. KIDMED is the name of the Louisiana EPSDT program.

Louisiana Medicaid Coverage Groups and Eligibility Income Requirements



KEY

FOA: Family Opportunity Act (Children w/ disabilities)
LaCHIP: State Children's Health Insurance Program
LIFC: Low Income Families and Children
TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Take Charge: Family Planning Waiver
CHAMP: Medicaid
LaMOMS: Pregnant Women
SSI: Supplemental Security Income

ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

States have substantial flexibility in how they count income to determine eligibility. For 2008, the FPL for a family of four is \$21,200 in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia.⁶

In Louisiana, all children receive 12 months of coverage regardless of changes in family income.

Applications can be made by mail (including with the assistance of an authorized representative), at a local Medicaid office, or a Medicaid Application Center, or online. Web: <https://bhsfweb.dhh.louisiana.gov/onlineapppublic/secure/welcome.aspx>. Phone: 1-888-342-6207.

Eligibility determinations are made typically within 10 days, but this period can be extended if the application requires a disability decision or if an out-of-state birth certificate is needed to establish citizenship.

Take Charge: Complete the separate Take Charge application at a local Medicaid office or Application Center or print it out online and send it in by mail. See: <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/publications/pubs-291/1-FP.pdf>.

NOTES

¹ Dan Belnap, *A Medicaid Primer for Juvenile Justice Officials*, State Health Policy Briefing, Vol. 2, Issue 6 (Portland, ME: National Academy for State Health Policy, April 2008) Available at http://www.nashp.org/Files/shpbriefing_medicaidforjuvenilejustice.pdf.

² "Louisiana Medicaid Enrollment Numbers January 2008." 2008. Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals. Retrieved 24 June 2008. http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/publications/pubs-92/Medicaid_by_Parish_0108.pdf.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Medicaid Financial Management Report, Fiscal Year 2005. Retrieved 16 June 2008. http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidBudgetExpendSystem/02_CMS64.asp#TopOfPage.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary; Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines, 73 Fed. Reg. 3971 (January 23, 2008).

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Program information comes from Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals Administration, Bureau of Health Services Financing (Medicaid) staff and website. See <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=92>.

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