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Family Opportunity Act Can Provide Access to Medicaid for Many Children with Disabilities

Does your child have a disability, but your family income exceeds the allowable limit for Medicaid eligibility? The Family Opportunity Act Medicaid provides health coverage to children who have disabilities in families with too much income to qualify for regular Medicaid or LaCHIP. The Family Opportunity Act Medicaid allows families in a higher income range to buy in to the Medicaid Program.

How Does My Family Qualify for the Family Opportunity Act Medicaid?

The child must:

- Be 18 years old or under.
- Have a disability (according to Social Security criteria).
- Meet financial criteria (at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines). For a family of four the maximum monthly income is \$5,963. [Click here](#) for all income limits.

Applicants must agree to pay a monthly premium of \$12 or \$35, depending on income and other insurance coverage.

Once eligible, enrollees receive the full range of services covered by Louisiana Medicaid. This includes, among others: hearing, vision, dental, medical equipment, therapies, prescription drugs, hospital services, and primary care. Some children are also eligible for personal care services, home health and other medically necessary services. [Click here](#) for a full list of services available to children eligible for Medicaid.

The Family Opportunity Act Medicaid is not new; it was first implemented in Louisiana in 2007 as the result of advocacy efforts by the DD Council, LaCAN, and others. However, many families who could benefit from this program are unaware of its existence. With the conversion of the developmental disabilities system to managed care planned for January 2016, it is vitally important for as many children with developmental disabilities as possible to become Medicaid eligible to maximize their benefits from the new system.

How Do I Apply?

You can apply for the Family Opportunity Act Medicaid in several ways:

- Submit an application online [here](#).
- Call the Medicaid office at 1-888-342-6207.
- Through a parish Medicaid office or local [Medicaid Application Center](#).