

Landowners Can Apply for Funding through the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program

Applications are being accepted for funding through the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program. The Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program, funded through a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, will reimburse nonindustrial private forest landowners in North Carolina for some of the cost of practices to manage young pine stands for the prevention of southern pine beetle infestations.

Currently, precommercial thinning is the only practice being funded. Applications will be awarded until all funds are exhausted.

To apply for assistance, a landowner can contact his or her county forest ranger (www.ncforestservice.gov/Contacts), who can provide the landowner with an application. For a landowner to qualify, a county ranger must approve a plan that provides guidelines for managing the pine stand. Plans can be written by N.C. Forest Service staff or a consulting forester.

Each landowner can receive reimbursements through the program for up to \$10,000.

Anson Crisis Ministries Provides Free Food Tuesday Through Friday

Anson Crisis Ministries distributes free food items to over 1,000 families each month. This adds up to an estimated 50,000 people a year in Anson and surrounding counties. They serve families Tuesday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Anson Crisis Ministries is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-2445.

North Carolina Has Expanded Health Care Coverage to More People

Close to half a million NC citizens are newly enrolled in Medicaid because of the Medicaid expansion

NC Medicaid now covers people ages 19 through 64 years with higher incomes. You may be able to get health care coverage through Medicaid even if you did not qualify before. NC Medicaid pays for doctor visits, yearly check-ups, emergency care, dental care, mental health and more – at little or no cost to you.

Most people can get health care coverage through NC Medicaid if:

- You live in North Carolina
- You are ages 19 through 64 years old
- You are a citizen (some non-US citizens can also get health care coverage through Medicaid).
- And if your household income falls within the chart below:

Household size Monthly income, before taxes

Single Adults	\$1,732/month or less
Family of 2	\$2,351/month or less
Family of 3	\$2,970/month or less
Family of 4	\$3,588/month or less
Family of 5	\$4,207/month or less
Family of 6	\$4,286/month or less

If someone is pregnant, they may be eligible for other Medicaid programs to get full health benefits.

NC Medicaid covers most health services. It includes doctor visits, check-ups, emergency care, hospital services, maternity and postpartum care, vision and hearing services, prescription drugs, behavioral health, preventive and wellness services, dental care, medical-related devices and more. There is no monthly fee and copays are never more than \$4.

Learn how to apply at medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/apply.

Quick Facts about North Carolina's Medicaid Expansion

- North Carolina expanded who can get Medicaid starting December 1, 2023.
- Adults ages 19 through 64 earning up to 138% of the federal poverty line (e.g., singles earning about \$1,730/month or families of three earning about \$2,970/month) may be eligible.
- The best way to apply is online through ePASS or HealthCare.gov; you can also apply in-person, by phone or mailed applications. The processing time for applications can be up to 45 days. Applications submitted online may be processed faster.
- The coverage is comprehensive, including services like primary care, hospital stays, maternity care, vision and hearing, dental/oral health care and more.
- Medicaid pays for doctor visits, yearly check-ups, emergency care, mental health and more – at little or no cost to you.
- Current beneficiaries with full Medicaid coverage will not see any changes.

More information about Medicaid Health coverage through Medicaid is comprehensive. Because these services are covered by NC Medicaid, they are provided at no cost or low cost to you. Services include, but are not limited to:

- Primary care so you can go to a doctor for a check-up or when you are not feeling well
- Hospital services when you need to stay overnight (inpatient) or when you can go home the same day (outpatient)
- Maternity and postpartum care if you are pregnant and after giving birth
- Vision and hearing services
- Prescription drug benefits
- Behavioral health
- Preventive and wellness services
- Dental and oral health services
- Medical-related devices and other therapies
- Statewide 479,153 people have enrolled in NC Medicare expansion.
- In Anson County 1,712 people have enrolled in Medicare expansion.

How to Apply You can apply online through ePASS – a secure, self-service website at ePASS.nc.gov. You can also apply online by completing a general health insurance application on HealthCare.gov. When you apply online, you can avoid having to go in person to your local Department of Social Services (DSS) office. If your application is complete, it may be processed faster.

If you cannot apply online, you can apply in person at your local DSS office, by calling your local DSS office or by mailing, emailing or faxing in a paper application available at medicaid.nc.gov/print-application. To find your local DSS office, go to ncdhhs.gov/localDSS. In Anson County the DSS office is located at 118 North Washington Street in uptown Wadesboro.

It takes time to complete the application. Here is some of the information you will be asked to provide for each person applying: Full legal name; Date of birth; Social Security number (or immigration documents); North Carolina residency; and Income information (from paystubs, W-2 forms, tax returns or business records). North Carolina uses external resources to verify the information you provide. If more information is needed, you will receive a letter in the mail from your local DSS.

Visit medicaid.ncdhhs.gov for more information.

North Carolina Celebrates More Than 500,000 Enrolled in Medicaid Expansion

More than half a million North Carolinians have now enrolled in Medicaid expansion since the program began seven months ago. Beneficiaries are now able to get the quality health care they need at low cost. Roy Cooper was joined by North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kody Kinsley, Dr. Karen L. Smith MD, FAAFP, a family physician in Raeford and Verlina Lomick, CHW-IV, Director of Community Outreach & Advocacy for Kintegra Health and health care advocates to celebrate reaching this major milestone, which had originally been projected to take as long as two years.

"People across our state continue to feel the positive impact in their lives with access to affordable health care coverage," said Governor Roy Cooper. "They can now see a doctor, get preventative care, manage chronic conditions and get life-saving prescriptions without the burden of high premiums or co-pays. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services along with the many community partners supporting enrollment efforts have done a remarkable job to reach half a million North Carolinians in such a short amount of time, and we'll keep working to enroll more people."

Since Dec. 1, 2023, new Medicaid enrollees have filled more than 1.9 million new prescriptions for conditions like heart health, diabetes, seizures and other illnesses. Medicaid has also covered more than \$28.6 million in claims for dental services since expansion began. And as of today, 503,967 North Carolinians have enrolled in Medicaid expansion.

The state will soon launch a Medicaid Expansion Service Utilization Dashboard to provide more insights into the health services new Medicaid enrollees use. The new dashboard will show monthly service trends since expansion launched in December 2023, including the number of people accessing doctor and dental visits, cancer screenings, behavioral health services and prescriptions. It will also provide metrics on the number of Medicaid expansion enrollees with chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension. The dashboard will show service totals by county to support local efforts, including through local health departments and community-based organizations.

"This year, we have worked tirelessly with our partners to help newly eligible North Carolinians get covered by Medicaid fast and get them connected to care," said NC Health and Human Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "Our new dashboard will showcase the positive impact of all the lives saved and peace of mind provided for North Carolinians by NC Medicaid."

People who did not qualify for Medicaid in the past may now be eligible, including those who are single, have higher incomes, and don't have children or a disability. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Medicaid expansion website (medicaid.ncdhhs.gov) provides information on eligibility, how to apply and where to find support. Individuals can also connect with state and local support teams to better understand their health care coverage options, complete Medicaid applications and navigate the enrollment process, as well as for help with language translation services.

To learn more or apply for NC Medicaid, visit Medicaid.nc.gov.



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