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County Indigent Health Care Program

October 13, 2022



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Training Overview

- Legislative and Statutory Authority
- Department and Entity Responsibilities
- Basic and Optional Services
- Program Eligibility



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Legislative and Statutory Authority



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Texas Administrative Code

- [Texas Administrative Code, Title 26, Part 1, Chapter 363](#)
- Establishes the County Indigent Health Care Program (CIHCP) rules regarding program administration, determining eligibility, and providing services.

Texas Health and Safety Code



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- [Texas Health and Safety Code, Title 2, Subtitle C, Chapter 61: Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act](#)
- The 69th Legislature established the program.
- Identifies the responsibilities of the department, counties, hospital districts, and public hospitals.
- Identifies health care services for eligible population.



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Department and Entity Responsibilities



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Health and Human Services Commission

- Provides policy guidance and training to entities.
- Administers State Assistance Fund.
- File medical & prescription claims for counties for Supplemental Security Income appellant clients.
- Provides guidance / assistance in billing queries.



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Health and Human Services Commission

- Establishes policies and procedures that are consistent with TANF-Medicaid programs
- Defines the services and establishes payment standards for basic and department-approved optional services.
- Resolves eligibility disputes between providers and governmental entities.



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Program Entities

- County – governmental entity not served by a hospital district or a public hospital.
- Hospital District - created under the authority of Article IX, Sections 4-11, of the Texas Constitution.
- Public Hospital - owned, operated, or leased by a governmental entity, except as provided by Section 61.051.



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County Programs

- Counties are required to establish a program with an application, documentation, and verification process that follows HHSC standards or a less restrictive program.
- Provide basic health care services to eligible county residents who do not live in a county area served by a public facility.

Hospital District and Public Hospital Programs



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- Hospital districts and public hospitals are required to:
 - Establish application procedures
 - Provide health care to those who meet:
 - the minimum CIHCP income;
 - resource guidelines; and,
 - who reside within the district's / hospital's defined service boundaries.

Programs Service Delivery



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- Services provided by entities may differ according to Chapter 61.
 - County programs shall provide all basic services.
 - Hospital districts and public hospitals shall endeavor to provide the same services as counties.



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Hospital District and Public Hospital Programs

- Public hospitals shall continue to provide the health care services they were providing Jan. 1, 1985.
- Hospital districts must continue to provide any other services as required under the Texas Constitution and statute creating the district.



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County Liability

- Maximum county liability for each state fiscal year to each eligible county resident is:
 - \$30,000 ; or,
 - Payment of 30 days hospitalization or treatment in a skilled nursing facility, or both, or whichever occurs first.



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Basic and Optional Services



Basic Services

According to Health and Safety Code Section 61.028, counties shall provide the basic health care services:

- Physician services
- Annual physical examinations
- Immunizations
- Medical screenings
- Inpatient and outpatient hospital services
- Rural health clinics
- Laboratory and X-ray services
- Family planning services
- Prescription drugs (3 per month)
- Skilled nursing facility services



Optional Services

According to Health and Safety Code Section 61.028, counties may provide other optional health care services that the county determines to be cost effective.

- Advanced practice nurse services provided by:
 - Nurse practitioner services
 - Clinical nurse specialist
 - Certified nurse midwife
 - Certified registered nurse anesthetist
- Ambulatory surgical center (freestanding) services
- Colostomy medical supplies and equipment
- Counseling services provided by:
 - Licensed clinical social worker
 - Licensed marriage family therapist
 - Licensed professional counselor
 - Licensed psychologist



Optional Services

According to Health and Safety Code Section 61.028, counties may provide other optional health care services that the county determines to be cost effective.

- Dental care
- Diabetic medical supplies and equipment
- Durable medical equipment
- Emergency medical services
- Home and community health care services
- Physician assistant services
- Vision care, including eyeglasses
- Federally qualified health center services
- Occupational therapy services
- Physical therapy services
- Other medically necessary services or supplies that the local governmental municipality/entity determines to be cost effective



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Program Eligibility



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Eligibility Criteria

- Lives in Texas.
- Has an income level at or below 21% of the current federal poverty guidelines.
- Resources less than \$2,000.
- Is not eligible for Medicaid.



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Residence

Residency proof may include but is not limited to:

- Mail addressed to applicant, spouse, or children.
- Texas driver's license or other official identification.
- Rent, mortgage payment, or utility receipt;
- Property tax receipt.
- Voting record.
- School enrollment records.
- Statement from a landlord, neighbor, or other reliable source.



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Household

- A CIHCP household may be a person living alone or two or more persons living together where legal responsibility for support exists, excluding disqualified persons.
- Legal responsibility for support exists between:
 - Persons who are legally married (including common-law marriage),
 - A legal parent and a minor child (including unborn children), or
 - A managing conservator and a minor child.

Medicaid is the only program that disqualifies a person from the County Indigent Health Care Program.



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Household

- Household proof may include but is not limited to:
 - Lease agreement, or
 - Statement from a landlord, neighbor, or other reliable source.



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Income

- Any type of payment that is of gain or benefit to the household.
- Earned income vs. unearned income.
- A household must pursue and accept all income to which the household is legally entitled.



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Income

- Proof of income may include but is not limited to:
 - Pay stubs.
 - Statements from employers.
 - W-2 forms.
 - Notes for cash contributions.
 - Business records.
 - Award letters.
 - Court orders or public decrees.
 - Statements completed, signed, and dated by the self-employed person.



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Income

If attempts to verify income are unsuccessful because the payer fails or refuses to provide information and other proof is not available, the household's statement is used as best available information.



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Resources

- May not exceed \$2,000 or \$3,000 for a person meeting the relationship/relative requirements who is elderly or disabled living in the house.
- Both liquid and non-liquid assets a person can convert to meet his/her immediate needs; resources are either countable or exempt.
- A household must pursue all resources to which the household is legally entitled unless it is unreasonable to pursue the resource.



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Resources

- Proof of resources may include but is not limited to:
 - Bank account statements.
 - Award letters.



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Additional Information

- [CIHCP Website](#) provides general information about the program.
- [CIHCP Policy Manual](#) provides contractors information needed to comply with program legislation and rules.



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Contact Information

Policy, Program, and Training Specialist

- Teresa Serrano
teresa.serrano@hhs.texas.gov

TMHP Liaison, SSI / Medicaid Reimbursement Specialist

- Rosa Voss
rosa.voss@hhs.texas.gov

CIHCP Mailbox

cihcp@hhs.texas.gov

CIHCP Phone Line
(512) 438-2350





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Questions?



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Thank you!
