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# **County Indigent Health Care Program**

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**October 13, 2022**



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# Training Overview

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- 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

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- [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.



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# 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 69<sup>th</sup> 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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.



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# 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.



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# 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

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- 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

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- 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**

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# Basic Services

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**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





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# Optional Services

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**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

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**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

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- 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.



# Residence

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## **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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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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

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- 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

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



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# Additional Information

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- [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

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# Questions?

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# Thank you!

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