

How to Apply for Medical Assistance

You can apply for Medical Assistance (MA) in many ways in Pennsylvania. The PH-95 Category is one way. The PH-95 category is for children (under 18 years old) with disabilities. Family income does not affect PH-95 eligibility. Even if you earn income above the MA limit, your child can still qualify in the PH-95 category. This is also known as a “loophole.” MA can help with payment for services not fully covered by private (self) pay or primary plans. You can keep your primary plan and receive all the benefits of MA (such as help with copays for specialists and prescription medication). MA applications can be completed online or by paper.

For more information about the MA application process, visit www.compass.state.pa.us OR call 1-866-550-4355.

Be sure to have the following for your application:

- Proof of identity/where you live
- Proof of your child’s identity
- Proof of child’s disability
- Financial information
- Proof of SSI (SSI application summary letter or letter of denial based on income)

Next steps after submitting an MA application:

1. Eligibility notice should be sent within 30 days—the timeframe can be shortened if there is an “urgent medical need,” which would need to be noted by your treatment provider.
2. You will receive your MA card.
3. You will receive a PA HealthChoices welcome letter from Magellan.
4. If you are denied MA, you have the right to appeal.

Contact your local County Assistance Office (CAO) if you have any questions:

Lehigh County Assistance Office

555 Union Boulevard, Suite 3
Allentown, PA 18109
Toll-free: 1-800-842-2020

Northampton County Assistance Office

201 Larry Holmes Drive, P.O. Box 10
Easton, PA 18044
Toll-free: 1-800-349-5122

Learn more:

- Center for Humanistic Change: www.thehc.org
- Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania: www.Magellanofpa.com
- PA HealthChoices: www.healthchoices.pa.gov