Eligibility

Medicaid is expanding to cover Nebraskans who previously did not qualify. Those being paid up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (or up to $1467 per month for an individual and $2498 for a family of 3) may be eligible. People in this new category of Medicaid, known as Heritage Health Adult, will receive one of two different benefit packages: “Basic” or “Prime.”

Prime coverage includes vision and dental services and over-the-counter medicine, while Basic does not. People who are pregnant, those who are 19-20 years old, and those who are considered “medically frail” (having certain chronic health conditions) will receive Prime coverage.

Requirements

Nebraska’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is moving forward with a plan for Medicaid expansion that includes wellness and work requirements. These requirements would likely go into effect later in 2020 or in 2021. To get Prime coverage, a person who starts in Basic coverage would need to meet these wellness requirements:

1. Participate in health and social determinants screenings upon enrollment and every year after enrollment;
2. Attend a qualifying health visit every year;
3. Select a primary care doctor;
4. Do not miss more than 3 appointments in a 6-month period;
5. Maintain commercial medical coverage, if possible; and
6. Tell DHHS of any changes in status within 10 days of the change.

Additionally, beginning the second year of the program, the following work requirements must be met to gain Prime coverage, unless the person is exempt:

1. Work or volunteer for at least 80 hours a month;
2. Enroll at least half time in an authorized educational program;
3. Be a qualified caregiver or be a relative, kinship, or licensed foster parent;
4. Participate in certain government programs; or
5. Engage in certain job search activities for at least 20 hours per week.

A person’s eligibility for Prime coverage will be reviewed every 6 months, and if a person fails to meet these requirements, they can be locked out of Prime coverage for 6 months or a year.

For questions about the Heritage Health Adult program, please contact Appleseed’s Community Assistance Line at neappleseed.org/ gethelp.