The Katie Beckett Eligibility Option

Under 134 of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (TEFRA), States are allowed to make Medicaid benefits available to eligible children with disabilities who would not ordinarily qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits because of parents’ income or resources.

The “Katie Beckett Eligibility Option” is an optional Medicaid eligibility category which allows a State to waive parental income and resources for any child under 19 years old who has a disability and meets a level of care that would make the child eligible for placement in a hospital, nursing facility, or Intermediate Care Facility for persons with intellectual disabilities (ICF/ID).

If a child qualifies for Medicaid under the Katie Beckett Eligibility Option, Medicaid covers medically necessary services as defined under the Medicaid State Plan.

There is a monetary limit to the Medicaid medical coverage costs. The cost of the child’s care in the home must be no higher than the amount Medicaid would pay if the child was institutionalized.

Applications for Medicaid under the Katie Beckett Eligibility Option are made at your local Welfare/Medicaid Office (the phone numbers are listed on the back of this sheet.). Be sure to take

• verification of income for you and your child, and
• some verification of the severity of your child’s disability to your appointment. Your early intervention service coordinator or eligibility caseworker can assist you in locating these items if you need help.

Even if you think your child might not be eligible because of income or severity of need, you should apply. And you can always appeal a decision.

What is my cost?

There may be a parental financial responsibility based on the parent’s income and resources for those children qualifying under the Katie Beckett Eligibility Option. The amount of money that the parents would be required to pay is determined by the Nevada State Welfare Division and is based on a sliding fee schedule.

Important Note: If your family qualifies for parental financial responsibility, this applies on a monthly basis regardless if services were accessed or not.

How to apply:

• Apply for SSI/Medicaid — when applying for Medicaid, be sure to complete the Medical Assistance for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (MAABD) portion.

• Advise the caseworker that you are applying for the Katie Beckett Eligibility Option.

• Fill out the application as if the child is applying him/herself for SSI and Medicaid

• Do not leave any questions unanswered, as unanswered questions delay actions on applications. If necessary, print N/A.

If you have questions about ANY of these programs or services, ask your service coordinator to assist you.
Criteria for the Katie Beckett Eligibility Option:

- The child must have a disability based on criteria established by the Social Security Administration but does not qualify for SSI due to the income and resources of the parents and

- The child must have a level of care that would be provided in a hospital, nursing facility, or Intermediate Care Facility for persons with intellectual disability (ICF/ID) and

- A physician must validate that it is appropriate for the child to receive necessary services in the home and

- Costs for medical coverage cannot exceed the amount that Medicaid would pay if the child were institutionalized (this depends on the specific level of care).

If your child is denied Medicaid under the Katie Beckett Eligibility Option, call your local Welfare/Community resource numbers listed on this page to get information about other waivers/programs and services that might be available for your child.

Service Coordinator: ____________________
Phone Number: ________________________

Nevada Division of Welfare & Supportive Services — https://dwss.nv.gov/

Project ASSIST is Nevada’s Part C Central Directory for information about agencies, organizations, and programs that provide services and supports for children or young adults with disabilities up to age 21, and their families.

http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/