

Open Medicaid Categories for Adults Who Have Received TennCare Disenrollment Notices

Quick Screening Questions

1. Do you have children under age 19 who are living in your home that you are related to by blood, marriage or adoption? If yes, check eligibility categories 1, 2 and 12
2. If you ever received Families First benefits or AFDC Medicaid Only (AFDC-MO) ? If yes, check category 3
3. Are you pregnant? If yes, check categories 4, 5 and 10
4. Have you ever received SSI benefits? If yes, check categories 7 and 8
5. Are you disabled or 65 or older? You may want to apply for SSI if you are not already receiving it. See category 6
6. Are you under age 21? If yes, check category 10
7. Do you have breast or cervical cancer? If yes, check category 11

1. Aid to Families with Dependent Children Medicaid Only- AFDC MO (1931)

- Must have a child in the home under 18 (or under 19 if in high school or equivalent vocational/technical school and expected to complete school before age 19)
- One parent must be absent from the home or one parent must meet the Families First definitions of incapacity or unemployed parent. Caretakers who are not parents can qualify if they are relatives by blood, marriage or adoption within a certain degree. See Families First Policy Handbook (<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/ff-handbook.pdf>)
- SSI recipients and all their income are not included in the assistance

group.

- Gross Monthly Income limits (Effective July 1, 2005)

1 person \$ 1,141	4 people \$ 1,972
2 people \$ 1,469	5 people \$ 2,163
3 people \$ 1,743	6 people \$ 2,322

- Net Income limit (Effective July 1, 2005)

1 person \$ 617	4 people \$ 1,066
2 people \$ 794	5 people \$ 1,189
3 people \$ 942	6 people \$ 1,255

- Earnings deduction per working person in the assistance group

1 person \$ 150 + \$ 100	4 people \$ 150 + \$ 229
2 people \$ 150 + \$ 171	5 people \$ 150 + \$ 292
3 people \$ 150 + \$ 217	6 people \$ 150 + \$ 294

- Childcare deduction for out of pocket childcare payments - \$200 mo.

maximum for each child under 2, \$175 mo. 2 and older

- Resource Limit: \$2000 per family (Car equity value is excluded from this limit up to \$ 4,600)

2. Families First - Low income families with children under age 18 (or under 19 if in high school or equivalent vocational/technical school and expected to complete school before age 19).

- Same income and resource requirements as AFDC MO except only a \$ 150 work disregard. Parents are required to participate in work activities unless exempt and there are time limits on eligibility. All eligibility criteria are at <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/ff-handbook.pdf>
- You must apply for Families First at the Department of Human Services

3. Transitional Medicaid

- All Families First recipients are eligible for 18 months after case closure
- AFDC MO recipients who meet the criteria listed below are eligible for 18 months after case closure
 - Lost eligibility for AFDC MO due to increased earnings
 - Received AFDC MO for three of the last six months before closure

4. AFDC Pregnant Women - Pregnant women who do not qualify in any other Medicaid category but would qualify for Families First or AFDC MO if other children were in the home

5. Poverty Level Income Standard (PLIS) pregnant women

- Gross Income Limit: 185% poverty (\$2416 for a family of 3)
- Resources are not considered in the eligibility determination for the PLIS category.

6. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Low income aged, blind, and/or disabled individuals who receive SSI benefits

- You must apply for SSI at the Social Security Administration.
- There is an income limit of \$ 579 for one person and \$ 869 for a married couple. There is a general income disregard of \$ 20. There may be a greater disregard if there are minor children. There is also an earned income disregard of \$ 65 plus _ of the remaining earned income.
- There is a resource limit of \$ 2,000 for one person and \$ 3,000 for a

couple

7. Daniels eligible – Received SSI while living in Tennessee at any time since November 13, 1987. Can contact the local Social Security office or the toll-free Social Security number (1-800-772-1213) to verify. Can also contact David Erwin at DHS (1-615-313-5600)

8. SSI Pass-A-Long and Pickle – Individuals who had SSA and SSI during the same month, but who no longer qualify for SSI due to cost of living increase (COLA) or due to other increase in income in excess of current income standards.

- Income Limit: \$599 (1); \$889 (2)
- Income is reduced by the amount of COLA increases since the SSI check stopped. Additional exclusion of income is based on reason for SSI closure and type of SSA benefit approved
- Resource Limits: \$2000 (1); \$3000 (2)
- Can contact the local Social Security office or the toll-free Social Security number (1-800-772-1213) to verify. Can also contact David Erwin at DHS (1-615-313-5600)

9. Institutionalized individuals- Low income persons who require care for at least 30 days in a nursing facility (NF), a hospital, an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded (ICF/MR), or in Home and Community Based Services

- Gross Income Limit: \$1737 (300% of the SSI federal benefit rate of \$579)
- Resource Limit: \$2000

10. Medically needy- Low income persons who are also one of the following:

Pregnant women and Children under age 21.

- Individual must either have income no more than the figures provided below OR he must have sufficient unreimbursed medical bills to "spend down" to these income limits, depending upon family size:
- Medically Needy Income Standard: \$241 (1); \$258 (2); \$317 (3); \$325 (4)
- Resource Limit: \$2000 (1); \$3000 (2)

11. Women with Breast or Cervical Cancer (BCC) - Tennessee women who are uninsured, who are under age 65, and who have been determined through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to need treatment for breast or cervical cancer.

- Income Limit: Medicaid may not impose an income limit. The screening guidelines required by the CDC Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program requires that screened eligibles be below 250% of poverty.
- Resource Limit: Resources are not used in determining eligibility in this category.

12. Adults ineligible for the old AFDC program due to a rule that does not apply to Medicaid – For example, under AFDC and Families First rules you have to include the income of children who have different fathers. You do not under Medicaid. So a family may exclude half siblings and their income and the adult and other half siblings can qualify in this category. You have to meet all the other requirements for #1 – AFDC MO.

13. Qualified Severely Impaired Individuals – This applies to persons who meet the criteria listed below. Anyone who has received SSI in Tennessee since November 13, 1987 is Daniels eligible as well.

- Received SSI based on blindness or disability in the previous month
- Continue to have the same disabling condition
- Would be eligible for SSI except for their earnings
- Not receiving Medicaid benefits would inhibit seriously their ability to continue or obtain employment
- Their earnings are insufficient to make up for the loss of SSI, Medicaid and attendant care services

14. Disabled Adult Child – Must meet the following criteria. Anyone who has received SSI in Tennessee since November 17, 1987 is also Daniels eligible.

- Began receiving SSI disability before age 22
- Lost SSI due to eligibility for Title II Social Security benefits

15. Disabled Widows or Widowers – Must have lost SSI in 1984 due to increases in Title II benefits

16. Individuals who lost SSI by obtaining early widows or widower's benefits

Persons 50 or older who would be continuing to receive SSI if they had not begun to receive early widow's or widower's Social Security retirement or special disability benefits. They are only eligible until they become eligible for Medicare. Anyone who has received SSI in Tennessee at any time since

November 13, 1987 is also Daniels eligible.

17. Persons who lost SSI in 1972 due to an increase in Social Security benefits

18. Grandfathered 1973 recipients – These are people who were eligible for Medicaid in 1973 under one of the categories listed below and they continue to meet the 1973 criteria for eligibility.

- Essential spouses
- Institutionalized individuals
- Blind or disabled individuals

For more information about any of these categories see *[An Advocate's Guide to the Medicaid Program](http://www.healthlaw.org)* <http://www.healthlaw.org>.