

<p style="text-align: center;">Medical Spend Down Program (MED) Phase Out Plan Fact Sheet April 29, 2011</p>

Eligibility for the MED Program will be frozen May 1, 2011 and will end September 30, 2011. No one will be approved for the MED program for the month of May 2011 and ongoing

What is the MED program?

MED is a short term program with a block of eligibility lasting no more than 6 months for families with income over 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and medical expenses that reduce their countable income to less than 40% of the FPL. They are NOT eligible for any other AHCCCS program. Families often qualify for MED after a family member has experienced a catastrophic injury or illness. Currently 14% of MED members are able to move to another category of AHCCCS when their MED coverage ends.

How many people are on MED?

As of April 1, 2011 there are 5,711 AHCCCS members enrolled in MED. There are less than 1,000 children on the MED program.

What will happen to those already on MED?

All MED members with eligibility effective before May 2011 will remain eligible for their block of eligibility. We expect about 1,000 MED members to roll off the MED program each month through September. All MED members will receive a notice in May explaining the phase out of the program. They will receive another notice in the last month of their MED eligibility.

What can MED members do?

- All MED families will get a SHORT CHANGE FORM in May and in the last month of their MED eligibility. They can use the Short Change Form or call DES to report decreases in their income or other changes to see if they qualify for other AHCCCS Programs. If their income or other circumstances have changed, it is important they return the form or call DES to see if they are eligible in another AHCCCS category.
- DES will contact MED families with children who do not submit the SHORT CHANGE FORM to assist them and their children to get other AHCCCS coverage.
- If MED members are denied for other AHCCCS coverage and they believe their eligibility was not determined correctly, they can file an appeal and request that their MED coverage be continued until the final decision is made by the DES Office of Appeals.

Alternative resources

See: <http://www.azahcccs.gov/community> for ideas about helping MED families who are losing AHCCCS coverage.