

Understanding Your Rights and Responsibilities

When I sign this form:

- I understand that Pennsylvania receives information from the Income Eligibility Verification System (IEVS), financial institutions, consumer reporting and state and federal agencies to verify the information I give them. Information available through IEVS and other entities will be requested, used and may be verified through collateral contact when conflicting details are found by the State agency, and such information may affect my household's eligibility and level of benefits.
- I understand that by signing this application, I am authorizing any financial institution to disclose, through electronic or any other means, any and all financial information held by that institution, to the Department of Human Services or its designated agent or contractor for the purpose of identifying and verifying resources (also called "assets") when needed to determine and redetermine eligibility for Medical Assistance. I understand that financial information includes deposits, withdrawals, account closures and other relevant information requested or received from the financial institution, including other transactions undertaken by the financial institution with respect to the account or asset. I understand that this authorization is effective until Medical Assistance eligibility is denied or ends, or if I decide to revoke it by written notification to the Department, whichever happens first. I understand that if I revoke this authorization, that may make me or my household ineligible for Medical Assistance.
- I understand that if I misrepresent, hide or withhold facts that may affect my eligibility for benefits, I may be required to repay my benefits and I may be prosecuted and disqualified from receiving certain future benefits.
- I understand that I can designate a representative or Power of Attorney by completing the Representative or Power of Attorney section.
- I understand and agree that I am responsible for any fraudulent statements made on this application, even if the application is being submitted by someone acting on my behalf.
- I understand any person enriched as a result of a transfer of assets or income, which would have affected my eligibility, will be liable for repayment of those benefits issued incorrectly.
- I received a copy of my rights and responsibilities, have read them or someone has read them to me, and I understand them.
- I understand that the information entered in this application will be kept confidential and only to administer benefits. I authorize the release of personal, financial and medical information for the purpose of determining eligibility.
- I understand that any changes I am required to report must be reported within 10 days of the change.
- I understand that I am required to report lottery and gambling winnings.
- I understand that I will receive a written notice explaining the benefits. If benefits are denied, changed, suspended or stopped, the written notice will explain why.
- I understand that I will have 30 days from the date of the notice to request a hearing if I do not agree with the decision made on this application.
- I understand that my situation is subject to verification from employers, financial sources and other third parties.
- I understand that applicants must provide their Social Security number or apply for one if they do not have one. This number may be used to check the information on this application.
- I understand that I must use the PA ACCESS Card only during the period I am eligible. I must use the PA ACCESS Card only for the person who is eligible and may get only the benefits that are needed and reasonable.
- I understand that I do not have to provide a Social Security number for anyone who is not applying for assistance. If I do provide their Social Security number, it may be used to check the information on this

application. Providing their Social Security number may maximize my benefits and reduce the time it takes to receive benefits.

- I certify that all information that has been entered is true under penalty of perjury.
- I understand that I have the right to a certificate of creditable coverage to verify my medical coverage. Federal law limits when health care coverage may be denied or limited for a pre-existing condition. If I enroll in a group health plan that has a pre-existing condition clause, I can get credit for the time I received Medical Assistance.
- I understand that if I am determined eligible for Medical Assistance, I will be placed in the most comprehensive health care benefit package that is available to me. I understand that I may be required to enroll in a health plan. I understand that enrolling in a health plan may be free or low cost to me, because the Department pays a monthly fee to the health plan for me. I understand that the monthly fee is a capitation fee. I understand that if I receive Medical Assistance that I am not eligible for, due to error, fraud, or any other reason, then I may be required to repay the Department all monthly fees paid on my behalf.
- I understand that if I am eligible for more than one Medical Assistance category, I will be placed in the most beneficial Medical Assistance category that is available to me. I understand I have the right to choose which category of Medical Assistance I receive and I can request a change to a different category if I am eligible for that category.
- I understand that I may be determined eligible for Medical Assistance that has a monthly premium payment.
- I understand the state has the right to review all records of medical service paid by Medical Assistance. Payment for service will be made directly to the provider, not me. This includes payments from Medicare.
- I am giving the state the right to seek, with or without legal action, payment from private or public health insurance or liable third party. The amount recorded will not exceed the amount paid by Medical Assistance.
- I understand that I have the right to ask the county assistance office (CAO) for assistance in getting proof of expenses and that the CAO can contact other people for confirmation if I am having trouble getting proof of anything.
- I understand that if some or all of the individuals applying do not qualify for Medical Assistance through the Department, that they may be eligible for federal benefits and/or explore private health care options through Pennsylvania's Health Insurance Marketplace (Pennie). If this is the case, I authorize the Department to give my name and information on this application to Pennie.
- Renewal of coverage in future years:** To make it easier to determine my eligibility for help paying for health coverage in future years, I agree to allow Pennsylvania's Health Insurance Marketplace (Pennie) to use my income data, including information from tax returns. Pennie will send me a notice, let me make any changes, and I can opt out at any time.

Yes, renew my eligibility automatically for the next: (Check one):

- ☐ Five years (the maximum number of years allowed)
- ☐ Four years
- ☐ Three years
- ☐ Two years
- ☐ One year
- ☐ Do not use my information from tax returns to renew my coverage.

X

Signature of Applicant or Authorized Representative

Date

X

Signature of Applicant's Spouse or Authorized Representative

Date

IMPORTANT: If your household is eligible for SNAP/LIHEAP, you may receive a Fast Track consent form in the mail that could allow you and your household members to be automatically enrolled in Medical Assistance.

Name of Authorized Representative	Address of Authorized Representative	Phone Number

**COUNTY
ASSISTANCE
OFFICE ONLY**

I have explained to the applicant her or his rights and responsibilities.

CAO Signature

Date

BE SURE TO SIGN AND DATE THIS APPLICATION AND INCLUDE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Affidavit

I certify, subject to penalties provided by law, that the information I gave is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have read this application in full or someone has read it to me and I understand the questions asked. I have received a copy of and read my rights and responsibilities, or someone has read them to me, and I understand them.

APPLICANT OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

DATE

I.D. VERIFIED

RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT

ADDRESS OF REPRESENTATIVE

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE +4

TELEPHONE NUMBER

WITNESS (IF SIGNED WITH AN X ABOVE)

DATE

ADDRESS OF WITNESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE +4

TELEPHONE NUMBER

PROVIDER SIGNATURE (IF SUBMITTED BY PROVIDER)

DATE

☐ Face-to-face interview with: _____

☐ Telephone interview with: _____

CAO OR OPTIONS

DATE

☐ Interview waived

Representative or Power of Attorney

Please complete if you have a representative or Power of Attorney. Copies of notices will be sent to the person named.

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE INITIAL:

RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT:

☐ REPRESENTATIVE

☐ POWER OF ATTORNEY

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

I wish to withdraw my application:

SIGNATURE

DATE

Your Rights and Responsibilities

Read about your rights and responsibilities:

RIGHT TO NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex and in some cases religion or political beliefs.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a complaint of discrimination regarding a program receiving Federal financial assistance through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), write: HHS Director, Office for Civil Rights, Room 515-F, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201 or call (202) 619-0403 (voice) or (800) 537-7697 (TTY).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

RIGHT TO CONFIDENTIALITY

We will keep your information private. It will only be used to decide which programs you may be eligible for. The county assistance office (CAO), when requested, must provide federal, state and local law enforcement officials with the address, Social Security number (SSN) and photograph (if available) of an individual who is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement for a felony or violating probation or parole. Any person knowingly violating any of the rules and regulations of this department shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be sentenced to pay a fine, not exceeding one hundred (\$100) dollars, or to undergo imprisonment, not exceeding six months, or both (62 P.S. section 483).

RIGHT TO A WRITTEN NOTICE

We will give you a written notice explaining your benefits. If we deny, change, suspend or stop benefits, we will give you a written explanation of why. You have 30 days from the mailing date of the notice to ask for a hearing.

RIGHT TO APPEAL

You have the right to ask for a Department of Human Services (DHS) hearing to appeal a decision if you believe it is unfair or incorrect, or if DHS fails to act on your application for benefits. You may file the appeal at the CAO. If you appeal, you may also request an agency conference before the hearing. At the hearing you may represent yourself, or someone else, such as a lawyer, friend or relative may represent you.

RIGHT TO CLAIM GOOD CAUSE

If you apply for cash or Medical Assistance benefits, the law requires you to cooperate with establishing paternity and seeking support. You may be excused from these requirements if you prove it may be dangerous for you and/or your children. This is known as good cause. Unless a good cause exemption is established, you will be required to meet employment and training requirements. You will also be required to meet semi-annual reporting requirements unless good cause is granted.

ESTATE RECOVERY

If you are age 55 or older and receive Medical Assistance to pay for nursing facility services, home and community-based waiver services and any related hospital and prescription drug service, you will be required to repay the cost of these services from your probate estate. You may call the Medical Assistance Estate Recovery Program at 1-800-528-3708.

RIGHT TO CERTIFICATE OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE

Federal law limits when health coverage may be denied or limited for a pre-existing condition. If you enroll in a group health plan that excludes treatment for a condition you already had, you can be credited for the time you received Medical Assistance coverage. This may help you obtain coverage. Contact your caseworker to request this certificate.

RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION

You must give true, correct and complete information. You must help in proving the information you give. Benefits may be denied if you fail to provide certain proof. If you cannot provide proof, you should ask the CAO to help you obtain it. If you are contacted by DHS or the Office of State Inspector General, you must fully cooperate with those persons or investigators. If you are age 55 or older and receive Medical Assistance to pay for nursing facility services, home and community-based waiver services and any related hospital and prescription drug service, you may be required to repay the cost of these services from your probate estate. If you are applying for cash assistance, we may require you to sign an agreement to repay benefits that you, your spouse and your children have received.

RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

For Medical Assistance benefits, you must provide an SSN for each person for whom you are applying. If you do not have an SSN, you must apply for one. Not providing an SSN may result in not being able to receive benefits. If you are married, you may choose whether to provide your spouse's SSN if your spouse is not applying. SSNs provided will be used for identity, for computer matches which verify income and resources, and to prevent duplication of state and federal benefits. Providing SSNs may reduce the time needed to process benefits. A noncitizen who is applying for emergency Medical Assistance only is not required to provide an SSN.

RESPONSIBILITY TO USE THE PA ACCESS CARD LAWFULLY

Once you are eligible for benefits, you will be issued a PA ACCESS card. This card may only be used for the person who is eligible and only during the eligibility period. You may only use the card for services that are needed and reasonable.

RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT CHANGES

If you qualify for benefits, you will be required to report changes in your circumstances to your caseworker or to the Customer Service Center. Types of changes reported would include people leaving or moving into the house, a new address, a new job for someone, if someone loses a job, birth of a child, new sources of income or changes to income, and lottery and gambling winnings. Your caseworker and notices you receive will cover the specifics in detail based on the programs and benefits you are eligible for. Failure to report required changes within the program guidelines could result in a loss of benefits, sanctions, or civil or criminal charges. You may report changes to the CAO in person, by phone, fax, mail or through a MyCOMPASS account. You may also report changes to the Customer Service Center at 1-877-395-8930, or for Philadelphia, 1-215-560-7226 any time.

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