



# Medical Assistance

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## Fast facts

- ▲ Hennepin had approximately 158,000 residents in 2007 who used Medical Assistance — about one in 14 residents.

## What is Medical Assistance?

Medical Assistance (MA) is Minnesota's version of Medicaid, a federal-and-state funded health insurance program for qualifying low-income people. Nationally, the program covers approximately 36 million people, including children, the elderly, pregnant women and people who are blind or disabled.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) administers Medicaid nationwide, providing funding, approving state plans, and ensuring compliance with federal regulations.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) oversees the Medicaid (Medical Assistance) program, which is administered by counties and funded with \$5 billion a year in total federal and state funds.

Medicaid is the largest single source of federal funding in Minnesota's budget. DHS translates federal Medicaid law and policy into state MA rule and policy, makes recommendations, and advises the Legislature about state laws relating to the program.

## How many are helped?

Approximately 158,000 Hennepin residents used Medical Assistance in 2007 — about one in 14 residents. Hennepin has a quarter of the state's population, and Hennepin's MA enrollees represent a quarter of the state's MA rolls.

## Who uses MA?

Hennepin residents enrolled in MA are low-income families with children, pregnant women, or persons who are blind, disabled or elderly. They must meet income and asset tests, which vary depending on ages and number of children. Typically, for a family of one adult and one child, their household income must be \$21,000 or less for the child to be eligible. An elderly or disabled person must receive less than \$10,404 a year and have less than \$3,000 in assets.

A snapshot of MA enrollees in Hennepin in December 2007 shows that approximately:

- 45 percent are non-Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) users, including families, single adults and children.
- 25 percent are enrolled in the MFIP.
- 20 percent are persons with disabilities.
- 10 percent are elderly.