



General Assistance Medical Care

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Fast facts

- ▲ In 2007, General Assistance Medical Care provided medical care for approximately 26,400 low-income Hennepin adults who did not qualify for Medical Assistance or other state and federal programs.

What is General Assistance Medical Care?

General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) is a state program that pays for medical care. Like other health care programs, GAMC prevents future health care costs by providing a safety net and focusing on prevention, not just emergency care. Program eligibility is determined by a variety of factors, including net income assets and family size.

People come to their county to apply for the program, and the counties determine if the person meets program eligibility. Counties are also responsible for the cost of administering the program.

How many are helped and at what cost?

In 2007, GAMC provided medical care for approximately 26,400 low-income Hennepin adults who did not qualify for Medical Assistance or other state and federal programs. About half of Hennepin's GAMC clients receive GAMC and no other assistance.

Minnesota had approximately 30,500 people enrolled in GAMC on April 1, 2008 – approximately 40 percent were Hennepin residents.

Who uses GAMC?

- The homeless who are not eligible for MinnesotaCare, which requires residency.
- People with mental health or chemical dependency issues who have difficulties meeting requirements of other programs such as Medical Assistance.
- Any adult without children whose income is below 75 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$7,800 annual income) – whether it's a 50-year-old man who has been laid off or a college student who falls on the ice – and needs hospital care.
- People who are disabled and waiting for the federal government to approve their application to Social Security Disability (RSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which may take six months to a year.