

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This letter is to provide you with information about the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid's TEFRA (Katie Beckett) program.

### **Why am I getting this notice?**

We hope the letter will:

- Help you learn more about the program and the process to decide if a child is eligible for TEFRA.
- Give you information on how to make the application process easier.
- Tell you how to apply and get help.

### **What is TEFRA?**

TEFRA (Katie Beckett) is a Medicaid coverage type for children who need a high level of care, like the care you may receive in a nursing home. It is for kids whose families can, and want to, provide care for their child at home. If your child had TEFRA Medicaid in another state, you must apply for it in South Carolina. You also must end the coverage in the other state.

### **How does a child qualify for TEFRA?**

A child must meet the criteria listed below to qualify.

- The child must be 18 years old or younger.
- The child must not have income or resources more than allowed by the program. These limits are based on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) limits. Monthly income limit is 300% of SSI limit. The resource limit is \$2,000.
- The child must live at home.
- The child must be able to get adequate care in their home. This care can include using services in the child's community.
- The cost of the child's care can't be more than what Medicaid would pay if the child were in a facility.
- The child must be disabled. This means the child must meet Social Security Administration standards for being considered disabled.
- The child must be deemed to need ongoing institutional care. This is called the level of care determination. This usually means nursing home care or intermediate care for the intellectually disabled (ICF-ID). It can also mean long-term care in a hospital. This requirement is NOT met because a child may need to be admitted to a hospital many times a year due to health crises or corrective procedures.

A child may have medical concerns and still not be eligible for TEFRA. If any of these rules are not met, the child can't qualify. Two of the criteria are more difficult to assess. These are the disability and the level of care determinations. They may take some time to do. Please submit all required information and documents with your application. This allows us to process your application faster.

## **How does a child get a disability determination?**

If a child is determined disabled by the Social Security Administration and is receiving benefits, a disability determination is not needed. However, if that has not yet happened, a disability application must be filled out. We send the completed application to a third-party vendor who makes the disability determination.

You must provide your child's medical records from the physicians and healthcare providers listed on your application. Please ask your healthcare providers to give the requested documents quickly. This will help us process the application faster. Send all medical records in with your application, if you have them. If you get medical records after you send in your application, you can still send them to us. Use one of the ways listed below.

- Online: Upload it using the document upload tool. Go to [apply.scdhhs.gov](https://apply.scdhhs.gov). Click on "Check Status/Update Information." Then click on "Submit your paperwork online."
- Fax: (888) 820-1204
- Email: [8888201204@fax.scdhhs.gov](mailto:8888201204@fax.scdhhs.gov)
- Mail: SCDHHS Central Mail – Attn: TEFRA, PO Box 100101, Columbia, SC 29202

If the medical records do not clearly indicate a disability, a specialist may be asked to review your child's condition. They will see if there is more information that might lead to a positive disability determination. This step makes the process longer. But, it also gives your child every chance of meeting disability status.

## **How do you decide the level of care?**

We also review your child's condition to determine whether he or she needs institutional care. This is called level of care. This is done at the same time as the disability determination.

To meet the medical necessity criteria for institutional care, a person must have functional deficits. These are called deficits in daily living skills for their age level. This may be things such as eating, feeding themselves, bathing, getting dressed, etc.

A child must have deficits in this area that are not just due to the age-appropriate dependences of a child. The determination for a child can be hard. All children are dependent at birth for help in these areas. Therefore, the normal dependency of an infant is age appropriate. It does not mean they need institutional care. We first look at your child's abilities compared to those expected for a child of the same age. The first review is to see whether your child's functional level is so varied from the expected level that he or she would require ongoing care in a nursing home or hospital.

If your child doesn't need to live in a hospital or nursing home, we send the application to the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN). DDSN reviews your child's records to determine if your child has intellectual disabilities or a related condition. They also assess if your child needs ongoing care in an ICF-ID.

## **How long does this take?**

This is a long process because we make every effort to find your child eligible. We may need to find specialists to review your child's condition if medical records do not support a disability determination. Home visits may be needed to make level of care determinations.

If you would like to provide us with more information about your child or send us a written statement about your child's condition, please send it with your application. This information may help us make disability and level of care determinations. Also, please urge your child's physicians and healthcare providers to respond quickly to requests from us for medical records.

While your child may have severe medical problems, they may still not meet TEFRA requirements. It is often the lack of need for constant institutional care that disqualifies a child. If your child is denied, it does not mean we do not think your child has serious medical problems or is seriously ill.

South Carolina is fortunate to have Family Connection of South Carolina. This organization offers support and training to parents of children with special health needs, disabilities and developmental delays. They may also be able to help you apply for TEFRA. You can reach them at (800) 578-8750. They are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also visit [familyconnections.org](http://familyconnections.org).

## **What if my child needs autism spectrum disorder (ASD) services?**

If your child needs ASD services, it is important to know Medicaid has special requirements for the services it pays for. This applies if your child has been diagnosed with ASD. It also applies if your child has been identified as being at risk for autism and still needs a diagnosis of ASD. A licensed psychologist, developmental pediatrician or a licensed psycho-educational specialist certified by the South Carolina Department of Education must certify and document through a comprehensive psychological testing report that the child meets the criteria for a diagnosis of ASD and services are medically necessary. All services must be authorized. Qualifying for ASD services does not automatically mean a child is eligible for TEFRA.

To ask about your application status, please call us. The number is (803) 741-1165. We are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## **Accessibility Options – Auxiliary Aids and Services**

This notice, other forms and info are available for free in other languages. You can ask for it in other formats. This includes Braille or large print. This is a free service. Please call the Healthy Connections Member Contact Center for help. The phone number is (888) 549-0820. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. The call is free.

You can also ask for us to change your primary language to Spanish. This will help us send your notices in Spanish, if available.

Esta notificación, otros documentos e información se puede ver en otros idiomas. Se puede pedir en otras formas. Esto incluye letras mas grandes y braille. Este servicio es gratuito. Por favor llame a Healthy Connections Member Contact Center por ayuda. El número de teléfono es (888) 549-0820. Las horas de operación son 8 a.m. a 6 p.m. Lunes a viernes. La llamada es gratis.