

# Medicaid For Anyone

Winter - Spring 2016

Elder Care Services, Inc., 108-18 Queens Boulevard, Suite 801, Forest Hills, NY 11375  
www.eldercareservicesny.com (718) 575-5700

## 1. MEDICAID AS AN ALTERNATIVE

*By Jack Lippmann*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Medicaid As An Alternative
2. Protecting Your Income
3. Protecting Your Life Savings
4. NYS 2016 Medicaid Regional Rates
5. 2016 Medicaid Income & Resource Levels
6. Protecting Your Home

Today, elderly or disabled individuals, in need of home care services, have two options:

The first, is to use all of their resources, or as some call it their life savings in order to pay for their home care, or

The second, is to apply for Community Medicaid and have the government pay for all of their medical and home care needs.

In order to achieve Community Medicaid eligibility one needs to meet Medicaid's resource and income levels; however, don't make the mistake that in order to reach those levels one needs to "spenddown" their life savings.

Community Medicaid applicants can protect their monthly income, their life savings, and their homes and still be eligible for government medical and home care services.

## 2. PROTECTING YOUR INCOME

---

"In 2016 Medicaid allows Community Medicaid applicants an allowance of \$825 + 20 miscellaneous."

---

In 2016 Medicaid allows Community Medicaid applicants an allowance of \$825 + \$20 miscellaneous. Any amount above the allowance is considered surplus income and that amount Medicaid would require the applicant to surrender on a monthly basis.

How does an applicant protect their surplus from Medicaid?

In addition to the \$845 allowance, applicants are allowed to pay for their supplemental health insurance if they wished to do so. Reason an applicant would wish to keep or acquire supplemental health insurance is if they have specialist that only take Medicare plus

### 3. PROTECTING YOUR LIFE SAVINGS

Let's consider an applicant saved a considerable amount of assets well over \$300,000 during their life time (that includes bank accounts, brokerage accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, etc.), and are now in need of home-care services. Considering the amount of resources allowed by a Medicaid recipient in 2016 is no more than \$14,850, they will be denied if they kept their life savings; however, applicants are allowed to transfer their life savings to anyone or even a trust in any one month, and the following month they become financially eligible.

---

"Applicants are allowed to transfer their life savings to anyone or even a trust in any one month, and the following month they become financially eligible".

---

The above transfer relates only to Community Medicaid applications. Should one require nursing home Medicaid the above does not apply; however, there are tools to protect approximately 50% or even more depending on the nursing home cost and other expenses.

### 4. NYS 2016 MEDICAID REGIONAL RATES

#### **New York City \$12,029**

Bronx, Kings (Brooklyn), New York (Manhattan), Queens, Richmond (Staten Island).

#### **Central \$9,252**

Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St. Lawrence, Tioga and Tompkins.

#### **North Metropolitan \$11,768**

Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester.

#### **Northeastern \$9,806**

Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, Washington.

#### **Long Island \$12,633**

Nassau, and Suffolk

#### **Western \$9,630**

Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming.

#### **Rochester \$11,145**

Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates.



*Jack Lippmann, President of Elder Care Services, Inc., Medicaid Professional and Consultant with over 20 years of Medicaid eligibility experience.*

## 5. 2016 MEDICAID INCOME & RESOURCE LEVELS

Basic numbers for applicable Medicaid recipients and their spouses:

Community Medicaid and

Home Care Medicaid:	Allowed Resource level:	\$	14,850.00
	Income:	\$	825.00

Nursing Home Medicaid:	Allowed Resource level:	\$	14,850.00
	Income:	\$	50.00

Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Resource level:	\$	2,000.00
---	----	----------

Maximum federal Community spouse Resource Allowance:	\$	119,220.00
--	----	------------

Community spouse minimum monthly

Maintenance needs allowance (MMMNA):	\$	2,980.50
--------------------------------------	----	----------

Home Equity limit:	\$	828,000.00
--------------------	----	------------



*Income & Resources.*

Protecting you Income continued from page 1

supplemental health insurance; otherwise, applicants can surrender their supplemental health insurance and proceed with Medicare and Medicaid.

One example was to pay for supplement health insurance; however, today an average senior citizen earns much more than \$845 and supplemental health insurance. That means Medicaid would expect applicants to surrender that surplus, unless applicants join a Medicaid approved pooled income trust.

### How does a Pooled Income Trust operates.

Applicants deposit their monthly surplus income in the pooled income trust. The amount above the \$845. Example: applicant's income is \$3,095 per month, \$250 they pay their supplemental health insurance, \$845 they keep and the surplus of \$2,000 which they must deposit in the pooled income trust. The uniqueness of the pooled income trust is that it allows applicants to use that money to pay their bills. The pooled trust must pay applicant's bills with the money they receive from the applicant.

---

*"Applicant's income is \$3,095 per month, \$250 they pay their supplemental health insurance, \$845 they keep and the surplus of \$2,000 which they must deposit in the pooled income trust."*

---

Utilizing a Medicaid approved pooled income trust allows applicants the ability to use their surplus income to pay their personal bills, such as, rent, telephone, cable, credit cards, leases, etc.

## 6. PROTECTING YOUR HOME

The Home or Primary Residence is an exempt asset when applying for Medicaid medical assistance providing the equity in the home is less than \$828,000; however, if the home or primary residence is not protected properly Medicaid can reach out and secure their expenses from the proceeds of the home or primary residence at a later date.

However, there are several transfers of the home or primary residence which would not create a penalty period and are actually considered exempt transfers:

- 1) to a spouse;
- 2) to a child under 21, or disabled, or blind;
- 3) to a brother or sister who have an equity interest in the home and have lived in the home for at least one (1) year prior to applicant's nursing home admission; and
- 4) to a child who cared for his/her parent, and lived with the parent at their home for a period of at least two (2) years prior to parent institutionalization.

Doing nothing or neglecting to transfer the home of a Medicaid recipient, while they are alive, may have negative and unwelcomed results. Fundamentally, when a single person passes away their primary residence, home, condominium or cooperative apartment falls into their estate, and before the Executor of their estate transfers the property they will need to settle the lien with Medicaid as their creditor.

**Community Medicaid** applicants can transfer their homes at any point in time prior to their death and they will not incur a disqualification period.

### **Elder Care Services, Inc.**

108-18 Queens Boulevard – Suite 801  
Forest Hills, NY 11375  
Tel: (718) 575-5700  
Fax: (718) 575-5707

Web Site: [www.eldercareservicesny.com](http://www.eldercareservicesny.com)  
E-mail: [jlippmann@eldercareservicesny.com](mailto:jlippmann@eldercareservicesny.com)

### **The Care:**

A big misconception that worries many, is the care. Some are under the impression that when applying for government assistance the care is less than the private pay care one would receive. I say wrong! Medicaid does not have home-attendants or nursing homes, they simply pay the private sector and the applicants chooses the services or nursing homes they wish to go to.

### **One alternative of many:**

Many individuals wishing to keep their resources and receive home care services or nursing home care are encouraged to check Long Term Care Insurances, when they are preparing their estate planning. There are several insurance providers in NYS with several alternatives allowing applicants the ability to retain some or all of their assets and at the same time receive government medical assistance at home or nursing homes.

### **Overview:**

Medicaid eligibility is possible for "Anyone" who is willing to comply with Medicaid's rules and regulations. With proper and professional assistance elderly and disabled applicants can achieve Medicaid eligibility and receive Medicaid medical assistance, while at the same time protect their income, life savings, and homes.

- Why miss out on some or full time assistance at your own home?
- Why miss out on Day Care Programs?
- Why miss out on the nursing home of your choice?
- Why miss out on what is owed to you?

We at Elder Care Services, Inc., strive to reach and achieve these goals, by offering the elderly and disabled the ability to tap into such programs which are available to everyone.

More importantly, with over 22 years of experience dealing with Medicaid, Elder Care Services, Inc., offers their clients the ease of mind dealing with the bureaucratic system, 100% assistance with Medicaid eligibility, Medicaid acceptance, choosing an MLTC, and if need be assistance with either home-care or nursing home services.