

# New Health Coverage for Virginia Adults

MEDICAID EXPANSION



# Vision & Goals

To implement a comprehensive system of care that empowers individuals to improve their health and well being, ensure access to high quality treatment and services and fosters personal responsibility

- Provides individuals with access to high quality, low cost health care
- Provides access to services that keep people healthy so they can engage in their communities (attend school/work) and enhances opportunities to improve their lives



# Vision & Goals

- Provides care coordination and a focus on the social determinants of health to improve outcomes for individuals with complex health conditions.
- Encourages healthy behavior and use of preventive services and promotes personal responsibility and accountability for appropriate use of health service
- Effectively manages expenditures, encourages use of appropriate care settings such as primary care and deters use of avoidable services



# Overview of Adult Coverage

- Coverage begins January 1, 2019
- Up to 400,000 more adults living in Virginia will have access to Medicaid coverage
- Examples of new enrollees include individuals employed in retail, construction, childcare, landscaping, food service or other jobs that do not offer health insurance
- Virginians who may have applied for Medicaid in the past and denied may now be eligible



# Who is eligible?

- New eligibility rules will provide low-cost health care coverage to up to 400,000 men and women
  - Adults ages 19-64, not Medicare eligible
  - Income from 0-138% Federal Poverty Level
  - Those not already eligible for a mandatory coverage group



Children 0-18

148% FPL (\$17,967)



Pregnant Women

148% FPL (\$17,967)



Disabled

80% FPL (\$9,712)

138% FPL (\$16,750)



Working Parents

52% FPL (\$6,313)

138% FPL (\$28,700)



Childless Adults

138% FPL (\$16,750)



Current Eligibility



Expansion Eligibility

FAMILY SIZE	MONTHLY	YEARLY
 	\$1,397	\$16,754
 	\$1,894	\$22,715
 	\$2,391	\$28,677
 	\$2,887	\$34,638
 	\$3,384	\$40,600
 	\$3,881	\$46,562
 	\$4,378	\$52,523
 	\$4,875	\$58,485
Each additional person add 	\$497	\$5,962

# What Services are Covered

- Doctor, hospital and emergency services, including primary and specialty care services
- Prescription drugs
- Laboratory and x-ray services
- Maternity and Newborn care
- Home Health Services
- Behavioral health services, including addiction and recovery treatment services
- Rehabilitative services, including physical, occupational and speech therapies
- Family Planning Services
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Preventive and wellness services, including annual wellness exams, immunizations, smoking cessation and nutritional counseling

# Starting the Expansion Process

- There is no Opt-out option for the expansion of Medicaid. All agencies should be preparing to begin coverage on January 1, 2019.
- VDSS/DMAS is automating as many areas as possible to reduce burden to LDSS. They are auto enrolling many of the eligible adults that are already on a limited covered group such as Plan 1<sup>st</sup> and the Governor's Access Plan (GAP).
- The Work requirement is anticipated to take effect in January 2020.

# Starting the Expansion Process

- The Cover VA call center will be staffed to handle as many of the customer calls as possible. Their contact information will be posted on the Expansion information from the website. This should reduce the number of calls to the local agencies.
- Local agencies have access to the Medicaid HUB. This site provides us with access to the most up to date information as it is released from DMAS & VDSS.
- The Medicaid Expansion policy release date is October 2018. Once the policy is released, training will begin in October or November.

# Things to consider

- The actual volume of new applications is unknown. The Commonwealth Institute estimates between 200-419 eligible individuals for Goochland County.
- As applicants apply for the new expansion program, they can also apply for other programs such as SNAP and Child Care. This will create additional volume for other programs.
- Approved Medicaid cases, whether auto-enrolled by the state or approved from new applications, will increase the caseloads of the agency.
- Higher ongoing cases will increase case renewals and changes. Note: Renewals for auto-enrolled cases will retain their renewal dates for the coverage they already have; new cases will have the date determined by the application month.



# Things to consider

- When a new Benefit Staff member is hired and has no experience, the policy training for F & C Medicaid takes at least 12 months or more. The majority of the burden for the expansion project will be shouldered by the current staff for most of the next full year.
- Retention of current staff: Many local agencies are competing for Benefit Program Specialist staff.
- There may be possible computer slow downs/work delays due to the system's inability to handle the extra volume. VDSS has stated that the bandwidth of the computer systems can accommodate the expansion project. This will remain to be seen, as often adding new programs, etc. causes system issues.
- The Cover VA call center: this could be an area of concern from the standpoint of their ability to handle the volume and provide the necessary level of case accuracy and timeliness.



# Things to consider

- What will be involved with the work requirement?
- Will local agencies have the responsibility to coordinate the work requirement for clients?
- Will there be an increase in the number of appeals?  
An individual can appeal the decision to deny an application.
- Will there be enough Medical providers that accept Medicaid?



# Goochland DSS

## Preparations & Planning

- VDSS provided Goochland DSS with \$66,470 in July 2018. This funding has no local match requirement. In FY 2019-2020, the additional funds will have the regular Administrative Match rate of 15.5%.
- GDSS and the County are working on renovating an office space to accommodate an additional Benefit Program Specialist position.
- We are recruiting for a Benefit Program Specialist III. We are looking for a candidate with experience in DSS systems and programs.
- We restructured the Benefit Unit. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be 2 sub-divisions in Benefits. One unit will focus on programs for the Elderly, Blind and Disabled. The other unit will focus on programs for Families and Children.

# Goochland DSS

## Preparations & Planning

- Attendance at state and regional meetings, conference calls and webinars
- Collaboration with our Community Partners is critical to assure that potentially eligible residents are referred to apply for the program

# Questions

Please note: Information and guidance regarding Medicaid Expansion is subject to change

