SUPPORTING ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

The following list summarizes District government services that support access to reproductive health care.

Child Care Services

The Child Care Subsidy Program

The Child Care Subsidy Program, also called the Child Care Voucher Program, helps low-income District families pay for child care services. Enrollees can select from level I and II child development center-based providers, child development home-based providers, relative care providers, or in-home care providers.[i]

The portion of child care costs a household is expected to pay is based on their income and number of children enrolled. For instance, a household earning 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) or less would have the full cost covered by the subsidy, whereas those earning between 301 and 350 percent of FPL would be expected to pay $19.82 per day per child. The full sliding fee scale for Fiscal Year 2022 can be found here. To qualify for the full benefit, households must earn no more than 250 percent of the FPL or 85 percent of the D.C. median income, whichever is lower, and have household assets of no more than $1 million.[ii] Additionally, the child must be under 13 years old or 19 years old if they have special needs; live with a legal guardian or parent who is working, training, in an education program, or seeking employment; be a U.S. citizen or have lawful permanent residence status; be a District resident; or receive protective services or is considered a vulnerable child. A child can also qualify if their parent or legal guardian receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits and is participating in education and training in line with their Individual Responsibility Plan; or if the child is a parent seeking a high school degree or equivalent, so long as the child and household meet the income, age, and residency requirements.[iii]

> Agency: Department of Human Services
> Website: https://dhs.dc.gov/service/child-care-services

Non-Traditional Child Care[1]

The Non-Traditional Child Care program reduces the cost for eligible individuals seeking child care at non-traditional hours.[iv] These hours include those other than from 7am to 6pm, Monday through Friday. Care can be provided on weekends, evenings, and nights. Eligibility is determined by the applicant's employment and/or training schedule. Applicants must meet the same qualifications as required for the Child Care Subsidy.

> Agency: Department of Human Services
> Website: https://dhs.dc.gov/service/non-traditional-child-care

---

[1] This is not a one-time child care service. To use these services for the purposes of attending a health care appointment, an individual must already have their child enrolled.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

D.C. Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

SART is a multidisciplinary group of agencies and organizations that provide services to victims in the aftermath of a sexual assault.[v] SART ensures consistent services for survivors of sexual assault; identifies gaps in services; and provides other services.

> Agency: Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants
> Website: https://ovsjg.dc.gov/service/district-columbia-sexual-assault-response-team-sart

D.C. Victim Hotline

The D.C. Victim Hotline (844-443-5732) provides comprehensive information, resources, and referrals in D.C. These services can be accessed by calling, texting, or via the online chat feature: https://chat.victimsofcrime.org/dcvictim/.

> Agency: Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants
> Website: https://ovsjg.dc.gov/service/dc-victim-hotline

Victim Assistance Network

The Victim Assistance Network is a group of providers in D.C. that offer a variety of victim services. These include mental health, medical, and legal services.[vi]

> Agency: Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants
> Website: https://ovsjg.dc.gov/service/victim-assistance-network

Ensuring Paid Sick Leave

Paid Sick Leave

Under D.C. Official Code § 32–531.01, all employers in D.C. must provide paid sick leave to their employees, which includes any individual employed in the District, with certain exceptions.[2] This leave can be used for a physical or mental illness, injury, or medical condition, professional medical diagnosis or care, or preventive medical care, among other reasons. The number of days an employer must provide is based on the number of employees and the number of hours the employee works.[vii] Provided the employee has worked the required number of hours, the minimum amount of leave they must receive is three days.[3]

---

[2] These exceptions include an individual who volunteers to engage in the activities of an educational, charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization for no payment; works as a casual babysitter; is an independent contractor; is a student; works as a health care worker who chose to participate in a premium pay program; works as a substitute teacher or aide employed by D.C. Public Schools for 30 days or less; or is a lay member elected or appointed to office within a religious organization.

[3] An employer with 24 or fewer employees must provide at least one hour of paid leave for every 87 hours worked. Employers with at least 25 employees but less than 100, must offer each employee not less than one hour of paid leave for every 43 hours worked. Employers with 100 or more employees must provide each employee at least one hour of paid leave for every 37 hours worked.

Health Care Services

D.C. Health Care Alliance

D.C. Health Care Alliance (Alliance) is a locally funded program designed to provide medical assistance to low-income District residents who are not otherwise eligible to enroll in either Medicaid or Medicare.[viii] To be eligible, an applicant must be a District resident, at least 21 years old, earn no more than 210 percent FPL (plus a 5 percent income disregard), and not have any other health or medical health coverage. All four Alliance plan providers only cover abortions in cases involving rape, incest, or when the life of the pregnant individual is in danger.[4,ix]

> Agency: D.C. Health Care Finance
> Website: https://dhcf.dc.gov/service/health-care-alliance

D.C. Health and Wellness Center

D.C. Health and Wellness Center offers affordable sexual health care, including reproductive health services, health screenings, and sexual health counseling and education, among other services.[x]

> Agency: D.C. Health
> Website: https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/1214106

D.C. Medicaid

Medicaid is a joint federal and state health insurance program that provides health insurance to low-income and/or disabled individuals and families.[xi] Most doctor visits, hospitalizations, vision care, prescriptions, mental services, dental services, medical equipment, medically necessary transportation, and other health care costs are covered under Medicaid.[xii] Abortion procedures are not covered under Medicaid due to the Dornan and Hyde Amendments, which prohibit Medicaid funds and locally-raised dollars from being used to cover such procedures.[5,xiii] However, there are exceptions in cases of rape, incest, or when it is necessary to save the pregnant individual's life.[xiv]

Enrollees must be D.C. residents and meet the household income requirements. As of 2022, a one-person household cannot have an annual income exceeding $18,075 to qualify.[xv] Medicaid applicants eligible for Non-Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)[6] should submit the Integrated Application for Medical Assistance.[xvi] Those eligible for Medicaid under a MAGI category[7] should submit an application at District Direct or District Direct Mobile App.

> Agency: D.C. Department of Health Care Finance

---

[4] The current Fiscal Year 2022 congressional budget rider prohibits D.C. from spending any funds on abortion, except in cases involving life endangerment, rape, or incest.

[5] The Hyde Amendment, which was established in September 1976, prevents Medicaid funds from being used for abortions, except in cases of rape or incest, or if the person's life is in danger. The Dornan Amendment, which was created in 1989, prohibits the District from using any locally-raised tax dollars to cover abortion care for people enrolled in D.C. Medicaid.

[6] Age 65 or over, blind, or have a disability, with resources at or below $4,000 for a single person; Supplemental Security Income recipients; Home and community-based waivers participants; Long Term Care beneficiaries; Medicare Savings Program recipients; Foster Care/Adoption Assistance; Medically Needy Spend Down; Former Foster Care Children; Under 19 years of age and qualify for the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act/Katie Beckett; or need treatment for breast and cervical cancer.

[7] Adults, age 21 to 64 without dependent children; pregnant women; parents/caretaker relatives; or children under age 21.

Website: https://dhcf.dc.gov/service/how-qualify-dc-medicaid

Access to Pregnancy Tests

The Pregnancy Program

The Pregnancy Program offers free pregnancy tests by calling (800) MOM-BABY or (800) 666-2229.[xvii]

> Agency: D.C. Health
> Website: https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/pregnancy-program

Medical Respite Services

Medical Respite Services offer individuals who are experiencing homelessness time-limited acute and post-acute medical care in a residential medical facility or shelter.[xviii] There are two facilities in D.C. that offer medical respite services to women, Patricia Handy Place for Women and Joseph's House.

Mental Health Resources

Access HelpLine

The Access HelpLine (1-888-793-4357) connects callers to the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) services and health care providers.[xix] The help line operates 24-hours, seven-days-a-week and is staffed by behavioral health professionals who can refer a caller to immediate help or ongoing care.

> Agency: Department of Behavioral Health
> Website: https://dbh.dc.gov/service/access-helpline

Community-Based Private Providers

Community-based private providers[8] offer behavioral health services to adults.[xx] These services include diagnostic/assessment services, counseling, medication, intensive day treatment, and crisis/emergency services. Individualized behavioral health services are supported by rehabilitation programs, peer supports, supportive employment opportunities, housing assistance, and a range of community housing alternatives to facility-based care.

> Agency: Department of Behavioral Health
> Website: https://dbh.dc.gov/service/adult-services

Transportation

D.C. Neighborhood Connect

D.C. Neighborhood Connect is a shared-ride shuttle service that operates in parts of Wards 1, 4, 5, and 8.[xxi] Transportation is restricted to specific zones.[9] This service is currently free and operates seven days a week from 6:30am to 10pm Monday through Thursday; 6:30am to 12am on Friday; 8am to 12am on Saturday; and 8am to 10pm on Sunday. Riders can schedule a ride via a mobile application (DC Neighborhood Connect) or by calling 202-398-0500 to schedule a ride.

---

[8] A list of DBH certified providers can be find at. https://dbh.dc.gov/node/119532.
[9] The map for the Northwest and Northeast zones is located here and the map for the Ward 8 zone is located here.

Agency: Department of For-Hire Vehicles
Website: https://dfhv.dc.gov/node/1401826 and https://dcneighborhoodconnect.com/

Medical Transportation Management (MTM)

MTM provides D.C. Medicaid and Alliance recipients free non-emergency medical transportation to appointments with healthcare providers enrolled in D.C. Medicaid or the Alliance.[xxii] To qualify, an individual must be enrolled in Medicaid or the Alliance, live in D.C., and have no other way of getting to the appointment. To book a ride, a patient must provide the medical reason they need a ride and the type of appointment they have, among other information. MTM rides can be arranged by calling 866-796-0601 for Medicaid enrollees. Those enrolled in a Medicaid Managed Health Care Program must contact MTM via their program's specific number.[10,xxiii]

Agency: Department of Health Care Finance
Website: https://www.mtm-inc.net/#section_2

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) provides free transportation for customers in non-emergency situations.[xxiv] NEMT operates 24 hours, seven days a week. Rides must be booked through the Fire and Emergency Medical Services' Nurse Triage Line.[11,xxv]

Agency: Department of For-Hire Vehicles and Fire and Emergency Medical Services
Website: https://dfhv.dc.gov/node/1519031

VetsRide

VetsRide offers free transportation for veterans residing in the District to educational, health, employment, food distribution, or housing services.[xxvi] Riders must be D.C. residents and earn no more than $45,000 or be recently unemployed. The service is available everyday between 6am and 10pm by calling 202-724-4010.

Agency: Department of For-Hire Vehicles and the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs
Website: https://dfhv.dc.gov/page/vetsride

Other

Guaranteeing a Safe Environment Around Health Care Facilities

The federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act prohibits intentional property damage and use of force or threat of force or physical obstruction to injure, intimidate or interfere with someone entering a health care facility.[xxvii]

---

[10] AmeriHealth: 1-800-315-3485; Health Services for Children with Special Needs: 1-866-991-5433; MedStar Family Choice: 1-866-208-7357; Trusted Health Plan: 1-855-824-5693.

[11] The Nurse Triage Line is accessed when an individual calls 911 and it is determined that an individual's condition is not a medical emergency and they are transferred to the triage line.

References

[i] Office of the State Superintendent of Education. Child Care Subsidy/Voucher Program. Retrieved from https://osse.dc.gov/service/child-care-subsidyvoucher-program.

[ii] D.C. Official Code § 4-410.03(b); 5-A DCMR § 201.

[iii] D.C. Human Services. Child Care Services. Retrieved from https://dhs.dc.gov/service/child-care-services.

[iv] D.C. Human Services. Non-traditional Child Care. Retrieved from https://dhs.dc.gov/service/non-traditional-child-care.

[v] Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants. District of Columbia Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). Retrieved from https://ovsjg.dc.gov/service/district-columbia-sexual-assault-response-team-sart.

[vi] Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants. Victim Assistance Network. Retrieved from https://ovsjg.dc.gov/service/victim-assistance-network.

[vii] D.C. Official Code § 32–531.02.

[viii] D.C. Department of Health Care Finance (2022). Alliance ICP Renewal FAQ. Retrieved from https://dhcf.dc.gov/service/alliance-icp-renewal-faq; D.C. Health Care Finance (2022). Health Care Alliance. Retrieved from https://dhcf.dc.gov/service/health-care-alliance.

[ix] D.C. Department of Health Care Finance. Health Insurance (Alliance and Medicaid). Retrieved from https://dhcf.dc.gov/page/health-insurance-alliance-and-medicaid; AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia Alliance (September 2021). Alliance Enrollee Handbook. Retrieved from https://www.amerihealthcaritasdc.com/pdf/member/alliance-handbook.pdf; MedStar Family Choice District of Columbia (2021). D.C. Healthcare Alliance Program Enrollee Handbook. Retrieved from https://www.medstarfamilychoicedc.com/-/media/project/mho/mfcdc/enrollee-handbooks/mfcdc-2021-2022-enrollee-handbook-healthcare-alliance-1422-taylor-w-line-and-typo-fixed.pdf; CareFirst District of Columbia. Enrollee Handbook. Retrieved from https://www.carefirstchpdc.com/pdf/CFDC/CFDC_Alliance_Enrollee_Handbook.pdf; Health Services for Children with Special Needs, Inc. (October 2021). Enrollee Handbook. Retrieved from https://hscsnhealthplan.org/sites/default/files/HSCSN%20Enrollee%20Handbook%20-%20FY22%20Approved%20Version.pdf; Congress.gov (March 15, 2022). Public Law 117-103, The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2022. Retrieved from https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ103/PLAW-117publ103.pdf.

[x] D.C. Health. Pregnancy Program. Retrieved from https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/pregnancy-program; D.C. Health. The D.C. Health and Wellness Center. Retrieved from https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/1214106.

[xi] D.C. Department of Health Care Finance. How to Qualify for D.C. Medicaid? Retrieved from https://dhcf.dc.gov/service/how-qualify-dc-medicaid.

[xii] D.C. Department of Health Care Finance. What Are Some of the Services Covered by Medicaid?. Retrieved from https://dhcf.dc.gov/service/what-are-some-services-covered-medicaid.

[xiii] ACLU. Access Denied: Origins of the Hyde Amendment and Other Restrictions on Public Funding for Abortion. Retrieved from https://www.aclu.org/other/access-denied-origins-hyde-amendment-and-other-restrictions-public-funding-abortion; Planned Parenthood (June 2021). House Appropriations Committee Advances Bill Eliminating Harmful D.C. Medicaid Abortion Ban. Retrieved from https://www.plannedparenthood.org/about-us/newsroom/press-releases/house-appropriations-committee-advances-bill-eliminating-harmful-d-c-medicaid-abortion-ban.

[xiv] Kaiser Family Foundation (May 2022). State Funding of Abortions Under Medicaid. Retrieved from https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/abortion-under-medicaid/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D.

[xv] Benefits.gov. District of Columbia Medicaid. Retrieved from https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1624.

[xvi] D.C. Department of Health Care Finance. How to Qualify for D.C. Medicaid? Retrieved from https://dhcf.dc.gov/service/how-qualify-dc-medicaid.

[xvii] D.C. Health. Pregnancy Program. Retrieved from https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/pregnancy-program.

[xviii] D.C. Official Code § 4–751.01(26A).

[xix] DBH. Access HelpLine. Retrieved from https://dbh.dc.gov/service/access-helpline.

[xx] DBH. Adult Services. Retrieved from https://dbh.dc.gov/service/adult-services.

[xxi] Department of For-Hire Vehicles. D.C. Neighborhood Connect. Retrieved from https://dfhv.dc.gov/node/1401826; D.C. Neighborhood Connect (2020). Home. Retrieved from https://dcneighborhoodconnect.com/.

[xxii] Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs. Free Transportation for Medicaid Recipients and Seniors in D.C. Retrieved from https://apia.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/apia/page_content/attachments/FREE%20TRANSPORTATION%20OPTIONS%20TO%20DC%20MEDICAID%20%26%20SENIORS_English.pdf.

[xxiii] Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs. Free Transportation for Medicaid Recipients and Seniors in D.C. Retrieved from https://apia.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/apia/page_content/attachments/FREE%20TRANSPORTATION%20OPTIONS%20TO%20DC%20MEDICAID%20%26%20SENIORS_English.pdf.

[xxiv] Department of For-Hire Vehicles. NEMT. Retrieved from https://dfhv.dc.gov/node/1519031.

[xxv] Office of Unified Communications. Right Care, Right Now. Retrieved from https://ouc.dc.gov/page/right-care-right-now1.

[xxvi] Department of For-Hire Vehicles. VetsRide. Retrieved from https://dfhv.dc.gov/page/vetsride.

[xxvii] 18 U.S. Code § 248.