

Health Insurance

Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) HelpLine

SHIBA HelpLine provides free, unbiased information about health care coverage and access
1-800-562-6900 or website <http://www.insurance.wa.gov/shiba/index.shtml>

SHIBA HelpLine assists consumers with choices and problems involving private health insurance as well as many government programs, such as:

- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Basic Health
- Children's Health Insurance Program
- Washington State Health Insurance Pool

Family Health Hotline – (Phone access) a program of WithinReach

If you call the Family Health Hotline, experienced Call Center staff can screen and assist you in applying for many State programs and can also help you locate resources in your community. Staff are available Monday – Thursday 8:00-5:30 and Friday 8:00 – 5:00. Bilingual staff speak Spanish. Other Languages are served using interpreters via AT&T Language Line. **1-800-322-2588**

<http://www.parenthelp123.org/resources/family-health-hotline>

ParentHelp123.org – (Online access) a program of WithinReach

Want to look for resources yourself and apply for programs for which you are eligible? Search the ParentHelp123 website to find services available through the Family Health Hotline. Call if you want help finding out if you qualify for programs and filling out applications on-line.

In English: <http://www.parenthelp123.org/?language=en>

En Español: <http://www.parenthelp123.org/?language=es>

Washington State Dept. of Social and Health Services- Medical Programs

Links to Children's Medical Programs, Basic Health, Family Medical, Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities, Alien Emergency Medical Program, Pregnancy Medical Program, Aged, Blind and Disabled Medical Program.

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/onlinecso/medical.shtml>

Washington State Health Care for Workers with Disabilities (HWD)

<http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov/Eligibility/hwd.htm>

It used to be that people with disabilities could not keep their Medicaid coverage if they went back to work. Under HWD, Washingtonians with disabilities who are working may purchase healthcare coverage for a monthly amount based on a sliding income scale. **HWD** is made available in Washington State under the *Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA) of 1999*. The HWD program recognizes the employment potential of people with disabilities, and represents Washington State's response to the "Ticket to Work" legislation passed by Congress in 1999. Under **HWD**, people with disabilities can earn more money and purchase healthcare coverage for an amount based on a sliding income scale.

HWD benefits include:

- Medicaid benefit package
- Greater personal and financial independence
- Members earn and save more without the risk of losing their healthcare coverage

Who qualifies for HWD? Washington residents who

- Are age 16 through 64
- Meet federal disability requirements
- Are employed (including self-employment) full or part time
- Have monthly net income* at or below 220% of the federal poverty level: \$1,986 for one person or \$2,672 for a married couple

What does it cost? Your monthly premium is based on a sliding scale. It cannot be more than 7.5% of your total income - but it can be less!

Interested in learning more? If you have been afraid of pursuing your career goals for fear of losing your health coverage, this program may be perfect for you.

How to apply for HWD: Call **(206) 272-2169** or **1 (800) 871-9275** to leave a message with the specialized medical team that completes HWD applications. You may also call the statewide customer service number at **1-877-501-2233** for general information; they will forward your request to apply to HWD staff, who will contact you directly. HWD staff check their direct message line twice a day.

To apply online, go to <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/onlineeco/applying.shtml> for information, and add “**Application for HWD**” in the comments section on the last page of the online form.