

Medicare and Medicaid

Two government programs to help people pay for health care – how they differ.



Medicare

Care for People Who Are Older, Disabled, or Chronically Ill

- Administered by Federal government.
- Benefits are 100% Federal funds.
- Eligibility based on age (65 and over), disability, or chronic illness.
- Coverage is Federally mandated and generally includes hospital, outpatient, nursing home, and prescription drugs.
- No financial tests to qualify.

Medicaid

Care for People With Limited Incomes and Resources

- Administered by States.
- Benefits are a combination of State and Federal funds.
- Eligibility based on limited income and resources.
- Coverage varies by State but generally includes most medical services prescribed by a doctor or dentist.
- Income and asset tests vary by State.

Total Beneficiaries in Millions

54*
Medicare

68*
Medicaid

10**
Dual Eligible



* September 2014
** January 2014