



## Covered Connecticut

### What is Covered Connecticut?

Covered Connecticut is a two-phase program that provides eligible individuals health insurance at no out-of-pocket cost to them. Specifically, individuals will not pay (1) health insurance premiums or (2) out-of-pocket costs (i.e., deductibles, copays, or coinsurance). The program begins July 1, 2021, with eligibility expanding to more people on July 1, 2022.

### Program Administration

Established by [PA 21-2](#), June Special Session (JSS), §§ 15-19, Covered Connecticut seeks to reduce the state's uninsured population by providing health insurance subsidies. Eligibility initially includes parents or caregiver relatives and their dependents then expands to include low-income non-pregnant adults (see below). Under the program, the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) pays health insurers directly for program participants' eligible costs. The program also outlines specific provisions on income tax, reporting, and federal-funding waiver requirements.

**Income Tax.** Subsidies provided to individuals through the Covered Connecticut program are not considered income for state income tax purposes.

**Reporting.** Beginning by January 1, 2022, OHS must report every six months to the Appropriations, Human Services, and Insurance and Real Estate committees a description of the program's operations, finances, and progress made for the preceding six months.

**Waivers.** The program will use up to two federal waivers for financial support. Subject to legislative approval, OHS may seek and implement a Section 1332 waiver. (A 1332 waiver is named after the section of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) that allows a state to waive certain ACA requirements that might otherwise prohibit it from implementing certain programs.) Additionally, the enabling legislation requires the Department of Social Services commissioner to seek a Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver. (In practice, this waiver would provide support for the additional dental and transportation related services provided after July 1, 2022.)

## Eligibility

To be eligible for the program's initial phase, individuals need to meet the following criteria:



**Parent or Caretaker Relative.** Generally, a parent or caretaker relative is a parent or another relative of a dependent child who has primary responsibility for the child's care (42 C.F.R. 435.4). In practice, this means eligible individuals must be responsible for at least one child under age 18, or a child who is 18 and is still a full-time student.



**Income Eligibility.** An individual generally must have income between 160% and 175% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (i.e., make too much for Medicaid eligibility, but not more than 175% FPL). To be income-eligible in 2021, a family of four must have a total income between \$42,400 and \$46,375.



**Healthcare Coverage.** Individuals must be (1) covered by a silver-level health plan offered through the exchange's individual market (i.e., Access Health CT) and (2) be eligible for federal qualified health plan (QHP) premium and cost-sharing subsidies.

Regardless of the definition of eligible parent or caretaker relative described above, the program will cover an eligible individual and all his or her tax dependents (e.g., children) under age 26.

**Example.** A parent with two children, ages 14 and 22, meeting the other eligibility criteria receives Covered Connecticut coverage for all three family members. However, since a parent with one child aged 22 does not meet the program's definition of a "parent" or "caretaker relative," they will not be eligible for Covered Connecticut even if the income and healthcare coverage requirements are met.

## Phase 2

Beginning July 1, 2022, eligibility expands to all non-pregnant adults between ages 18 and 64 who meet the income and healthcare coverage requirements described above. (Low income pregnant adults are generally eligible for Husky A.)

## Benefits

During the initial phase of the program, the Covered Connecticut program will pay all health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs, after any federal premium and cost-sharing subsidies, that would have otherwise been paid by the individual and his or her covered family members.

Beginning sometime after July 1, 2022, Covered Connecticut will also include Medicaid-level dental benefits and non-emergency medical transportation services.

Learn  
More

[Access Health CT](#)

Office of Health Strategy's [website](#)

Covered Connecticut [Press Release](#)

[PA 21-2, JSS](#)

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