

Healthcare Coverage Options & Adult Providers

Finding healthcare coverage as an adult:

Texas Health Options

(This is a great place to start learning of your healthcare coverage options.)

www.texashealthoptions.com

Texas Health Options is a comprehensive website for finding healthcare coverage, including low-cost options, and is a resource provided by the State of Texas.

You first “Select Your Profile” and then it will delineate options for healthcare coverage that best match your profile and health coverage needs.

Depending on the profile you select for yourself, Texas Health Options will suggest certain steps to take in order to get health care coverage, and it will provide more detailed information on the steps.

Some of the steps Texas Health Options may suggest might be, but are not limited to, the following:

- ***If you're covered on a parent's policy, try to continue this coverage if possible.***
- ***Find-out if your college or university offers a student health plan. (The website lists college/university links to coverage.)***
- ***Seek coverage through your employer (some employers offer coverage to part-time employees).***
- ***If you're seriously disabled, apply for Social Security Disability Income.***

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

www.ssa.gov/pubs/11000.html

1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778 if you are deaf or hard-of-hearing)

www.socialsecurity.gov/locator (Find an office closest to you at this link.)

For disability purposes in the SSI program, a child becomes an adult at age 18, and the Social Security Administration uses different medical and nonmedical rules when deciding if an adult can get SSI disability payments. For example, the Social Security Administration does not count the income and resources of family members when deciding whether an adult meets the financial limits for SSI. They count only the adult's income and resources. They also use the disability rules for adults when deciding whether an adult is disabled.

If your child is already receiving SSI payments, the Social Security Administration must review the child's medical condition when he or she turns age 18. They usually do this review during the one-year period that begins on your child's 18th birthday. They will use the adult disability rules to decide whether your 18-year-old is disabled. If your child was not eligible for SSI before his or her 18th birthday because you and your spouse had too much income or resources, he or she may become eligible for SSI at age 18. If a recipient has SSI, they will also have Medicaid for healthcare coverage.

In order to learn more about SSI, go to www.ssa.gov/pubs/11000.html. It will provide comprehensive information about the program, including benefits, eligibility criteria, and the application process.

In order to prepare your SSI application, you may get "Disability Starter Kits" which provide a fact sheet, application checklist and worksheet.

www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits_adult_eng.htm.

Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)

www.ssa.gov/disability

1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778 if you are deaf or hard-of-hearing)

www.socialsecurity.gov/locator (find an office close to you)

An adult child also may qualify for benefits on a parent's earnings record if he or she has a disability that started before age 22 **and** one of his or her parents must: be receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits; or must have died & have worked long enough under Social Security. The recipient will also receive Medicaid coverage.

If you don't qualify for health care coverage through options such as trying to remain on your parent's healthcare insurance plan or obtaining coverage through an employer or college/university or if you don't qualify for SSI/SSDI (which entitle you to Medicaid), then there are options such as:

The County Indigent Health Care Program

www.dshs.state.tx.us/cihcp/default.shtm (Find your local office at this link.)

The County Indigent Health Care Program (CIHCP) is a part of the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) and provides health care services to eligible residents through the counties, hospital districts and public hospitals in Texas. Counties are required to provide Basic Health Care Services and may elect to provide a number of TDSHS-established Optional Health Care Services.

Parkland Healthcare System is the County Indigent Health Care Program **for Dallas county residents only.**

In order to learn more about the Parkland Community Health Plan, go to www.parklandhospital.com/patients_visitors/healthplan.html.

The Epilepsy Foundation

1-888-548-9716

e-mail: clinic@eftx.org

If you have been diagnosed with epilepsy or a seizure disorder and do not have health insurance (they also accept Medicaid), the Epilepsy Foundation offers specialized medical care and diagnostic testing at their clinics for adults with epilepsy . All of the clinics are funded in-part by a grant from the Texas Department of Health Services. Clinic sites are located in Amarillo, Beaumont, Fort Worth, Grapevine, Houston, Lubbock, & Lufkin. The Epilepsy Foundation Clinic also can help patients with obtaining their seizure medication at low or no cost, if they qualify.

Other Community Clinics

There are other clinics in the community which provide healthcare; however, they most often provide primary care & don't often provide specialty care like neurology. They charge fees based on what you can afford. They may have samples of medications but often can't provide medication assistance, especially for medications to treat a chronic condition.

You may find community clinics in your area by utilizing these resources:

- http://bphc.hrsa.gov/search_HCC.aspx - The Department of Health and Human Services' Bureau of Primary Health Care's Provider Locator helps find a primary care provider in your area.
- **2-1-1 Texas** - Call 2-1-1 or go to www.211.org)

Prescription Assistance:

If you have no medication coverage as part of your health care coverage, there are some pharmaceutical assistance programs which may be able to provide assistance:

Partnership for Prescription Assistance

www.pparctx.org

1-888-477-2669

Partnership for Prescription Assistance unites America's pharmaceutical companies, doctors, patient advocacy organizations, and civic groups to help low-income patients without prescription coverage.

Rx Hope

www.rxhope.com

Rx Hope provides access to applications for various national pharmaceutical assistance programs.

Rx Outreach

www.rxoutreach.com

1-800-769-3880

Rx Outreach provides more than 50 generic medications that treat a wide range of conditions to people who financially qualify.

Texas Rx Card Program

www.texasdrugcard.com

Texas Rx Card Program free prescription drug discount card for Texas residents.

Rx Assist

www.rxassist.org

Rx Assist gives providers access to pharmaceutical company patient assistance programs.

National Organization of Rare Disorders Medication Assistance Programs

www.rarediseases.org

1-800-000-6673

National Organization of Rare Disorders Medication Assistance Programs assists uninsured or under-insured individuals in securing life-saving or life-sustaining medications.

Finding healthcare providers (i.e. physicians and advanced practice providers):

- If you receive Medicaid, then the **Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership** has a “provider look-up” by which you may find primary care, neurology and other specialty providers who accept patients with your form of Medicaid and who are located close to you.

<http://opl.tmhp.com/ProviderManager/AdvSearch.aspx>

- If you have another form of healthcare insurance coverage, then you may search for providers through your healthcare insurance provider. Healthcare insurance plans have various ways by which to search for a provider, which is usually via an internet search on the healthcare insurance website or by calling a 1-800 number on your insurance card.
- Also, many healthcare systems located close to you provide assistance in finding providers who are a part of their system and who accept your form of health insurance. For example, you may look-up neurologists who are associated with UT Southwestern by going to, <http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/patientcare/doctor/findphysician.html>

Employment Assistance

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

www.dars.state.tx.us/

1-800-628-5115

In order to contact your local DARS office, go to www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/offices/OfficeLocator.aspx

If you have a physical or cognitive disability that is keeping you from living independently or from finding a job, the Division for Rehabilitation Services (DRS) provides the following types of assistance:

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program

Is a state-federal partnership that helps people with disabilities prepare for, find & keep jobs. Work related services are individualized & may include counseling, training, medical treatment, assistive devices, job placement assistance, and other services. Eligibility criteria for this program include: the presence of a physical or mental disability that results in a substantial impediment to employment, whether the individual is employable after receiving services, & whether services are required to achieve employment outcomes. The VR program helps Texans with disabilities prepare for, find & keep employment. This program also helps students with disabilities plan the jump from school to work. Please see our Vocational Rehabilitation Guide to Applicants to learn about the process of applying for VR services.

Independent Living (IL) Services and Centers

Concentrate on self-sufficiency and quality of life, even if work potential is limited. Independent Living Centers and Services promote self-sufficiency despite significant disability - providing people with disabilities with improved mobility, communication, personal adjustment and self-direction. Independent Living Centers are operated by and for people with disabilities throughout the state to provide assistance through peer counseling, information and referral, advocacy support and other measures that encourage people to make their own decisions.

Supported Employment

Serves consumers of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program who need on-going support to maintain competitive employment. Counselors ensure that consumers in this program have the opportunity and support necessary to work in their communities. (*Please see Easter Seals North Texas information)

Transition Planning

Counselors provide consultative and technical assistance to public school personnel in planning the move from school to work for students with disabilities. Assist counselors in coordination with schools, independent school districts, and regional Educational Service Centers.

DRS Rehabilitation Technology Resource Center

Helps keep track of new equipment and engineering services designed to help people with disabilities be more independent.

Easter Seals North Texas

www.ntx.easterseals.com

Director of Employment Services (Tempe Pate)-817-759-7958; tpate@ntx.easterseals.com

Assistant Director of Employment Services (Linda Baker) - 817-759-7967; lbaker@ntx.easterseals.com.

Employment Services

Match skills & interests of people with disabilities with opportunities for success in the workplace. They provide the following: on-the-job training, person-centered planning, job coaching, ongoing follow-up, retention & advancement services, rapid re-employment assistance, job development services, resume instruction, interview training, and job search skills training.

Ticket to Success (Ticket to Work Program)

Provides assistance to people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and are interested in returning to work.

Supported Employment

As a provider Supported Employment is a one-on-one intensive approach to job placement in which the trained employment consultants work individually with each job seeker and acts as the job seeker's advocate to the business community.

Job Placement

Assist those more able to participate in their own job search. Clients receive resume instruction, job skills search training & job leads.

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Services

Support adults receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits learn about the financial and medical incentives for returning to work or obtaining employment, so that they can make informed decisions.