

## What is MassHealth?\* You May Qualify

MassHealth is a public health insurance program for low- to medium-income residents of Massachusetts. The national health insurance program called **Medicaid** is called MassHealth in Massachusetts. This health insurance program is for children, adults with or without children, adults working for small employers, unemployed individuals, pregnant women, disabled individuals, elderly people on small incomes, women with breast or cervical cancer, and people in need of long term care. If you have health insurance, you may still be eligible for MassHealth. Generally, eligibility is based on family income. MassHealth may provide you with health insurance coverage directly, or may pay part or all of your private health insurance premiums.

### What is MassHealth Essential?

MassHealth Essential replaced MassHealth Basic coverage for many long-term unemployed adults who lost benefits in April 2003.

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#### **General Eligibility: This coverage type is for adults aged 19 through 64 who:**

- are not eligible for MassHealth Basic
- have been unemployed (or underemployed) for more than one year
- are not eligible for unemployment compensation
- If there is a spouse, the spouse must be working no more than 100 hours per month.

#### **MassHealth Essential has two forms:**

- **Premium assistance**, for those with private health insurance where MassHealth pays all or part of your private health insurance premiums. Your health insurance must meet MassHealth's standards.
- **Purchase of medical benefits**, for the uninsured, who must enroll with a **primary health care doctor** to receive MassHealth benefits.

### How to Get Assistance for a Better Understanding of How MassHealth Works?

Visit your local community health center (CHC) and talk to a MassHealth benefits advisor. The benefits advisor will answer your questions and help you with the application. To find a community health center near you, see the [Locate Mass CHCs](#) online listing or call the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers Patient Referral Line at 1-800-475-8455.

### What is Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership?

The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) manages mental health and substance abuse services for more than 320,000 MassHealth members across the Commonwealth. You can call Customer Relations at 1-800-495-0086 for more information.

### ***You are Invited to Apply for MBHP Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) Membership***

Members meet monthly to assess and give feedback about the behavioral health system. If you are interested – send a letter designating interest to Ken Krivit, CAC Membership Committee, MBHP, 150 Federal Street, Boston MA 02110.!