



ROBERT L. EHRlich, JR.  
GOVERNOR

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## **Governor Ehrlich Unveils New Health Initiative**

*Primary Adult Care Program gives access to 30,000 low income Marylanders*

BALTIMORE – Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. today unveiled a new program to provide 30,000 additional low-income Marylanders access to the healthcare they need. During an event at Jai Medical Center on Park Heights Avenue in Baltimore City, the Governor announced the Primary Adult Care (PAC) program, an initiative administered through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

“Improving the health of Marylanders has been a central priority of my Administration from day one,” said Governor Ehrlich. “By dramatically expanding health care coverage for vulnerable citizens, we are building on our considerable successes in making Maryland a better and healthier place to live. Since we took office, we have expanded access to health care to 94,000 additional Marylanders in need.”

PAC, which began on July 1, covers primary care physician office visits, prescription drugs, outpatient mental health care, and some limited additional health services. PAC does not cover specialty care, hospital care, or emergency room visits.

“This prevention oriented program will help fill a health care gap,” said DHMH Secretary S. Anthony McCann. “Governor Ehrlich’s initiative provides health care services to low income Maryland residents who previously did not have access. Approximately 14,000 Baltimore City residents will benefit from this new program.”

PAC enrollees will get most of their health services from primary care providers who work with managed care organizations. These organizations are Jai Medical Systems, Maryland Physicians Care, and UnitedHealthcare.

To be eligible for the Governor’s PAC Initiative, Marylanders must:

- Be age 19 or older;
- Not be eligible for Medicare;
- For individuals, have an income that is no more than 116 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$940 per month in 2006) and assets that are no more than \$4,000;
- For a family of two or more, have income that is less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$1,100 per month for a family of two in 2006) and assets valued at less than \$6,000.

DHMH estimates that PAC will cover approximately 30,000 adults in FY 2007.

To apply for PAC, please visit [www.dhmh.state.md.us/mma/pac/index.htm](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/mma/pac/index.htm) or call the PAC eligibility line at 1-800-226-2142 to request an application. For additional information, please call the PAC Enrollee Action Line at 1-888-754-0095.

The Ehrlich Administration is investing a record \$4 billion in Medicaid and related services to ensure that Maryland's most disadvantaged citizens have access to quality health care. In addition to the PAC program, the Ehrlich Administration is providing 35,000 Maryland seniors with access to prescription drugs through the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program.

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