



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH PRESS RELEASE

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Ehrlich Announces New Health Initiative

Primary Adult Care Program gives access to low income Marylanders

BALTIMORE, MD (July 5, 2006) – Maryland is expanding health insurance coverage for low-income adults, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich announced today. Effective July 1, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) implemented the Primary Adult Care (PAC) program to expand access to healthcare statewide.

“Improving the health of Marylanders has been a priority of my administration from day one,” Governor Ehrlich said. “This expansion of coverage is another in a series of initiatives we have undertaken to make Maryland a healthier and better place to live.”

PAC 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. “The PAC provides health care services to low income Maryland residents who previously did not have access.”

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

To be eligible for PAC, 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;

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- 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 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.

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