



Medicaid is a program that is federally and state funded, which provides certain medically necessary services to low-income children and parents, elderly, and disabled persons. Once a state opts to administer Medicaid, it must meet certain mandatory federal criteria governing services and eligibility. However, there are some programmatic aspects that a state may design to meet specific state objectives. Enrollment in Medicaid grew from 77,212 in July 2002 to 113,556 in August 2013 or 47% over 11 years. Enrollment increases were most marked beginning in October 2009 with implementation of the Healthy Montana Kids Program (HMK), which was enacted by citizen initiative and raised financial eligibility for children in families with incomes from 100% to 133% of the federal poverty level. At the same time, family incomes declined due to the recession, so that more low-income parents and children became eligible for Medicaid.