

Pennsylvania Health Law Project



Who Are We?

The Pennsylvania Health Law Project (PHLP) is a statewide, nonprofit center of legal expertise and advocacy devoted to helping low-income, elderly and people with disabilities gain access to quality health care through public health insurance programs. We have offices in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Philadelphia.

What are the Public Health Insurance Programs?

- Medical Assistance/ Medicaid
- CHIP – Children’s Health Insurance Program
- Medicare

What Do We Do?

- Operate a toll-free Helpline – Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 8am-8pm
- Provide advice, brief service, and representation
- Provide consumer education by way of trainings, workshops and informational brochures
- Provide technical expertise on health policy at the state and local level
- Publish a monthly newsletter - *Health Law PA News* and a monthly e-News
- Maintain a website of current information on public health insurance programs at www.phlp.org

*We can be reached through our toll-free Helpline at 1-800-274-3258
Open for call-ins Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.*

How Can We Help Individual Consumers?

- Provide information about health insurance programs you may be eligible for
- Advise you on the application process for public health insurance programs
- Explain how public health insurance programs work
- Assist you in getting the healthcare services you need
- Explain your consumer rights and choices
- Make phone calls with you
- Represent you in grievances and fair hearings when services are denied
- Explain how you access health care when you have both Medicare and Medical Assistance
- Explain how you apply for insurance through the Affordable Care Act at www.healthcare.gov
- Provide you with written materials and applications for public health insurance programs

- Assist you in accessing health care if you are uninsured and not eligible for public health insurance programs and can't afford insurance

What Are the Costs For PHLP Services?

- All client services are free.
- There is no income limit to qualify.

Examples of When Someone Might Call the Health Law Project Helpline for Assistance:

- You are uninsured or underinsured.
- You or your child had Medical Assistance or CHIP but now someone is saying you no longer do.
- You already have public health insurance, but you are having trouble accessing the medical care you need.
- You need in-home supports to avoid going to a nursing home or other institution.
- You have been prescribed a medication, but the health plan won't pay for it.
- The health plan has denied, reduced or terminated a needed service or medical equipment for you.
- You have private health insurance and public health insurance but the coordination of the two is a nightmare.
- You need help with a complaint, grievance or fair hearing.
- You have Medical Assistance and need help with transportation to a medical appointment.
- You want to know more about how to advocate for the services you or your child needs.
- You want information on how to get involved in regional or state committees regarding public health insurance programs.

Services PHLP Does NOT Provide:

- We do not help with private insurance issues.
- We do not help with education issues for your child.
- We do not help with problems with the criminal justice system.
- We do not help with involuntary mental health commitments.
- We do not help with applications or denial for SSI (Supplemental Security Income) or SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance)
- We do not help with malpractice issues.
- We do not help with Medicare appeals.

PHLP Policy Advocacy

- Legal representation for the Consumer Subcommittee of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC)
- Work with the Department of Human Services to improve the state's public health insurance programs
- Provide legal counsel to advocacy organizations on policy issues
- Provide back-up services for the PA Legal Aid programs, statewide