



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 424

January Session, 2025

Senate Bill No. 981

Senate, April 2, 2025

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. LESSER of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR OLDER PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-261 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2025*):

4 (a) Medical assistance shall be provided for any otherwise eligible
5 person (1) whose income, including any available support from legally
6 liable relatives and the income of the person's spouse or dependent
7 child, is not more than one hundred fifty-nine per cent, pending
8 approval of a federal waiver applied for pursuant to subsection (e) of
9 this section, of the benefit amount paid to a person with no income
10 under the temporary family assistance program, and (2) if such person
11 is an institutionalized individual as defined in Section 1917 of the Social
12 Security Act, 42 USC 1396p(h)(3), and has not made an assignment or
13 transfer or other disposition of property for less than fair market value
14 for the purpose of establishing eligibility for benefits or assistance under

15 this section. Any such disposition shall be treated in accordance with
16 Section 1917(c) of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396p(c). Any
17 disposition of property made on behalf of an applicant or recipient or
18 the spouse of an applicant or recipient by a guardian, conservator,
19 person authorized to make such disposition pursuant to a power of
20 attorney or other person so authorized by law shall be attributed to such
21 applicant, recipient or spouse. A disposition of property ordered by a
22 court shall be evaluated in accordance with the standards applied to any
23 other such disposition for the purpose of determining eligibility. The
24 commissioner shall establish the standards for eligibility for medical
25 assistance at one hundred fifty-nine per cent of the benefit amount paid
26 to a household of equal size with no income under the temporary family
27 assistance program. In determining eligibility, the commissioner shall
28 not consider as income Aid and Attendance pension benefits granted to
29 a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or the surviving spouse of such
30 veteran, or Title II income above the eligibility standard that is related
31 to an individual's identification as a disabled adult child under the
32 Social Security Act. Except as provided in section 17b-277 and section
33 17b-292, the medical assistance program shall provide coverage to
34 persons under the age of nineteen with household income up to one
35 hundred ninety-six per cent of the federal poverty level without an asset
36 limit and to persons under the age of nineteen, who qualify for coverage
37 under Section 1931 of the Social Security Act, with household income
38 not exceeding one hundred ninety-six per cent of the federal poverty
39 level without an asset limit, and their parents and needy caretaker
40 relatives, who qualify for coverage under Section 1931 of the Social
41 Security Act, with household income not exceeding one hundred thirty-
42 three per cent of the federal poverty level without an asset limit. Such
43 levels shall be based on the regional differences in such benefit amount,
44 if applicable, unless such levels based on regional differences are not in
45 conformance with federal law. Any income in excess of the applicable
46 amounts shall be applied as may be required by said federal law, and
47 assistance shall be granted for the balance of the cost of authorized
48 medical assistance. The Commissioner of Social Services shall provide
49 applicants for assistance under this section, at the time of application,

50 with a written statement advising them of (A) the effect of an
51 assignment or transfer or other disposition of property on eligibility for
52 benefits or assistance, (B) the effect that having income that exceeds the
53 limits prescribed in this subsection will have with respect to program
54 eligibility, and (C) the availability of, and eligibility for, services
55 provided by the Connecticut Home Visiting System, established
56 pursuant to section 17b-751b. For coverage dates on or after January 1,
57 2014, the department shall use the modified adjusted gross income
58 financial eligibility rules set forth in Section 1902(e)(14) of the Social
59 Security Act and the implementing regulations to determine eligibility
60 for HUSKY A, HUSKY B and HUSKY D applicants, as defined in section
61 17b-290. Persons who are determined ineligible for assistance pursuant
62 to this section shall be provided a written statement notifying such
63 persons of their ineligibility and advising such persons of their potential
64 eligibility for one of the other insurance affordability programs as
65 defined in 42 CFR 435.4.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2025	17b-261(a)
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HS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Social Services, Dept.	Cost - See Below	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	Approximately 125,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) beginning in FY 26 due to excluding any federal Social Security income related to an individual's identification as a "disabled adult child" (DACs) under the federal Social Security Act that exceeds the HUSKY C Medicaid income limit. The state will incur increased costs as individuals would become eligible sooner than they otherwise would have (because a spend-down would no longer be required) or individuals would become eligible for HUSKY C due to the provisions of the bill.

DSS will also incur costs of approximately \$250,000 related to system modifications, resulting in a federal grants revenue gain of approximately \$125,000.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to HUSKY C eligibility and service utilization.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 981*****AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR OLDER PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill excludes certain federal income from eligibility determinations for Medicaid, making it easier for people with this income to become eligible for Medicaid. Specifically, it excludes any federal Social Security income related to an individual's identification as a "disabled adult child" under the federal Social Security Act that exceeds the HUSKY C Medicaid income limit. HUSKY C is Connecticut's Medicaid program for people who are elderly, blind, or living with a disability.

Under the federal Social Security Disability Insurance program, a disabled adult child is an unmarried person who is at least 18 years old with a disability that began before age 22. A disabled adult child may be eligible for benefits based on their parent's earning record.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

BACKGROUND***Related Bills***

sSB 807, favorably reported by the Human Services Committee, requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to eliminate the asset limit for HUSKY C over a five-year period.

sSB 11, § 9, favorably reported by the Human Services Committee, also requires DSS to eliminate the asset limit for HUSKY C over a five-year period.

sHB 6911 (File 110), favorably reported by the Aging Committee,

requires DSS, starting July 1, 2025, to increase HUSKY C asset limits by at least the same percentage increase as the national consumer price index.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/13/2025)