

Alaska TEFRA Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is TEFRA?

Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) is a Medicaid program specifically designed for children with disabilities and significant medical needs. TEFRA only provides regular Medicaid coverage. No special services are provided under this category of Medicaid. To qualify for TEFRA Medicaid, a child must meet ALL of the following:

- a. Must be younger than 19 years of age, and
- b. Must be living in the home of the biological or adoptive parent, and
- c. The child's income and resources must be within the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) limits. <http://dpaweb.hss.state.ak.us/POLICY/PDF/Medicaid-Standards.pdf>
- d. Must meet the definition of Social Security Disability (SSI), and
- e. Must meet one of three possible level-of-care categories

2. What are the level-of-care (LOC) categories?

TEFRA Medicaid has three LOC categories:

- Intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disability (ICF/IID)
- Nursing facility (NF)
- Inpatient psychiatric hospital (IPH)

Each of these LOC categories has specific state-regulated criteria for determining eligibility. The Division of Senior and Disability Services (DSDS) reviews application documentation to determine eligibility for the ICF /IID LOC. Comagine Health reviews application documentation to determine eligibility for the NF and IPH LOC categories. Not all children who are determined to be disabled meet a LOC category. Additionally, high medical costs alone will not qualify a child to meet a LOC, or disability determination.

3. What is a medical cost determination?

A medical cost determination (aka cost of care) is a form that is submitted as part of your child's application. The care coordinator you choose to work with has access to this form and will help you complete it.

4. Why do I need a care coordinator?

TEFRA has a complex application process; therefore, your care coordinator is a valuable resource in the TEFRA process. They act as the main point of contact between you and the various agencies involved in the application process and have access to the forms that need to be submitted. Comagine Health will work directly with your care coordinator to ensure timely submittal of all application documentation.

Care coordinators bill the state of Alaska for the services they provide.

5. How will I know if my child is approved for TEFRA?

Along with the age, location and child's income requirements for TEFRA stated in question No. 1; three qualifications (c, d and e) require approval notifications from these agencies:

- The Division of Public Assistance (DPA) verifies the financial eligibility and resources of your child. Once approved, an annual review is required.
- The Disability Determination Services Unit (DDS) determines if your child meets the SSI disability criteria and will send notifications to the DPA. Once approved, an annual review may be required.
- The Division of Disability Services (DSDS) or Comagine Health reviews application documentation to determine if the LOC criteria are met and sends notifications to the DPA. Once approved, an annual review is required.

When the DPA receives all three of these approvals, they will send you an official notification letter.