

B. Eligibility Requirements other than Financial

1. Single persons and childless couples 21 through 64 who are neither blind nor disabled will generally be excluded from eligibility for any medical care and services. However, medical assistance will be available to such persons under a catastrophic illness provision. This provision authorizes medical assistance to otherwise ineligible persons in the event of a catastrophic illness. Care under this provision is limited to care and services in a medical institution. In such cases, payment by the social services district, shall be limited to the cost of hospital care and services in excess of the *lesser* of either:

- a. Twenty-five percent of the recipient's annual net income or
- b. The amount by which the recipient's net income exceeds the applicable public assistance standard—e.g. \$1,600 for single persons and \$2,300 for couples.

Once having qualified under the catastrophic illness provision, the recipient and his spouse, if any, shall be eligible for assistance in respect to the total cost of hospital care and services for the period of 12 months.

The resource exceptions applicable to other eligible persons shall also apply to this group.

If, in determining the recipient's eligibility under the catastrophic illness provision, the amount of his income above the public assistance levels is utilized, the recipient will be eligible for all medical care and services.

2. Persons who meet the financial eligibility standard and who are either:

- a. under 21 or 65 years of age and over, or
- b. the spouse of a recipient of public assistance, or
- c. for reasons other than income and resources, eligible for Aid to the Blind, Aid to the Disabled or Aid to Dependent Children are eligible for *all* medical care and services.

It is estimated that this revised Medicaid program would reduce potential eligible beneficiaries by 2.2 million and actual beneficiaries by 1 million in the next fiscal year.

A HEALTH SECURITY PROGRAM

A comprehensive plan to meet the health needs of the people of New York State was presented by Governor Rockefeller in March 1968. Its major objectives are:

(1) To assure basic hospital benefits to 15.7 million New Yorkers, virtually the entire population under 65 years of age. The cost to both employees and employers would be limited and the State, in appropriate cases, would contribute to meeting the expenses exceeding these limits.

(2) To establish an effective hospital cost control system.

The basic health benefits would include 120 days of semi-private in-hospital care and ancillary hospital services; 100 days of home care; hospital outpatient diagnostic services; and hospital outpatient care for accidental injury or emergency illness.

Each employee's contribution to the health insurance system would amount to two percent of his wages or one-half the actual cost of providing the coverage, whichever figure is the lower.

The hospital cost control system would be based on such measures as State approval of rates to be paid by all government agencies and health insurers, incentives for efficient management, and the establishment of a statewide, uniform cost accounting and cost-finding system.

The plan also provide for establishment of a Health Benefits Commission, in the Department of Health, consisting of the Commissioner of Health, the Superintendent of Insurance, the Commissioners of Social Services and Mental Hygiene, and five public members appointed by the Governor, to administer the program.

IV. ABOUT PEOPLE . . .

In 1967 the public social service system in the State gave needed care and service to a monthly average of 1.3 million men women, and children. The recipients were about equally divided between children and adults.

CHILDREN

Here is a brief statement about the children who were helped and how:¹

Public assistance.—588,000 received financial assistance because of the death, desertion, disability, unemployment, or inadequate earnings of a parent.

¹ Figures represent approximate monthly averages, except where otherwise indicated.