

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**2024 Legislative Session**Bill No. CB-047-2024

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Members Blegay and Oriadha

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

AN ACT concerning

The Prince George's CARES and Health Reimbursement Act

For the purpose of establishing a county-wide health program that provides access to primary care services for all Prince George's County residents who are ineligible for existing healthcare programs.

BY adding:

SUBTITLE 12. HEALTH.

Sections 12-224, 12-225, 12-226, 12-227, and 12-228

The Prince George's County Code

(2023 Edition).

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that Sections 12-224, 12-225, 12-226, 12-227 and 12-228 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same are hereby added:

SUBTITLE 12. HEALTH.**DIVISION 14. THE PRINCE GEORGE'S CARES AND HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM.****Sec. 12-224. Legislative Purpose and Intent.**

It is hereby declared by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland that the Prince George's CARES and Health Reimbursement program shall be established. There is a need to address equitable access to primary healthcare for all Prince George's County residents, including those who are ineligible for existing healthcare programs. By establishing the Prince

George's CARES and Health Reimbursement program, these issues shall be addressed.

Sec. 12-225. Definitions.

(a) **Primary Care Providers** shall mean providers of primary healthcare services and directly, or through strategic partnerships, provide supportive services that promote wellness and self-sufficiency, patient case management services including counseling, referral, and follow-up services and other services designed to assist patients in establishing eligibility for and gaining access to Federal, State, and local programs that provide or support medical, social support services, housing, educational, or other related services..

(b) **Primary Healthcare Services** shall mean the following required services directly or through established referral arrangements:

- (1) Diagnostic laboratory and radiologic services.
- (2) Preventive health services, including—prenatal and perinatal services.
- (3) Appropriate cancer screening.
- (4) Well-child services (EPSDT).
- (5) Immunizations against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- (6) Screenings for elevated blood lead levels, communicable diseases, and cholesterol.
- (7) Pediatric eye, ear, and dental screenings to determine the need for vision and hearing correction and dental care.
- (8) Adult vision services.
- (9) Voluntary family planning services.
- (10) Dental exams and preventive dental services including cleaning and fluoride treatment (excluding scaling or deep cleaning).

(c) **Prince George's CARES and Health Reimbursement Program (the "Program")** shall mean a county-wide health program that provides access to primary care services for all Prince George's County residents who are ineligible for existing healthcare programs.

Sec. 12-226. Requirements under the Prince George's CARES and Health Reimbursement Program.

(a) The Program shall:

- (1) provide health coverage for all eligible adults and children residing in Prince

George's County at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

(2) provide coverage for primary medical, behavioral health, and oral health care including preventive and basic restorative services in a clinical setting, through telehealth or other designated sites and all services will be provided in accordance with COMAR regulations and the laws of the state of Maryland.

(3) assure that enrollment is open and accessible to all residents, decentralized and conducted at the point of service and other designated locations.

(4) compensate providers based on negotiated visit rates by beneficiaries for primary medical care visits, behavioral health visits, outpatient substance abuse treatment and oral health visits at a reimbursement rate starting at \$180 for Primary Medical Visits, Behavioral Health, and Preventive Oral Health Visits for Children and Adults, and \$90 for Behavioral Health Follow ups, subject to an annual revaluation of costs to determine the need for an increase in the reimbursement rate.

(5) reimburse participating Prince George's County providers for services rendered to verified enrollees no matter where the services are provided if the services are rendered in accordance with program guidelines; patients will be able to receive services at the location best able to meet their needs and most convenient for them; patients will have access to timely appointments and, to the extent possible, their clinician of choice.

Sec. 12-227. County Responsibilities.

The source of funding for the Program shall be solely from Prince George's County.

Sec. 12-228. Qualifications, Enforcement and Penalties.

(a) The Health Department shall administer and enforce this chapter. The Health Department may issue rules and regulations as necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(b) As a condition of participating in the Program, individuals shall verify income, address and eligibility status.

(c) Verification of income, address and eligibility status shall be conducted by the primary care providers at the point of service or point of enrollment and the primary care providers shall accept self-attestations or otherwise accommodate people with non-citizen status and/or non-traditional living and employment arrangements.

(d) Eligibility verification shall be conducted annually; enrollment records will be centrally maintained by a program administrator who will issue program participation identification cards to beneficiaries for use at the point of service.

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SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection, or section.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Jolene Ivey
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

KEY:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.

Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

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LDR-72-cb-Prince Georges CARES and Health Reimbursement Act.Bill.2024