

Tennessee's Katie Beckett Program

What is Katie Beckett?

In Tennessee, the Katie Beckett program is available to children under 18 with complex medical needs who want to receive care at home. Generally, these children meet the social security disability requirement, but they do not get SSI or Medicaid due to parental income or resources. In order to qualify for Katie Beckett, a child must be deemed ineligible for TennCare Medicaid in the other categories of eligibility.

Three Categories - Part A, Part B, and Part C

Part A - Up to 300 Children

Who is eligible?

Part A is for children who qualify for care in an institution, but their families want them to receive care at home. It has two tiers: Tier I and Tier II. Tier I is for children with the most severe medical and/or behavioral support needs. Tier II is for children with severe medical, behavioral, or functional needs.

Children in both tiers get the same benefits. Children in tier I or with the highest needs get priority enrollment.

Benefits:

Children in Part A get full Medicaid benefits. This means everything medically necessary will be covered including private duty nursing, medical equipment, and transportation to medical appointments. They also will receive \$15,000 a year in home and community-based services (HCBS). These funds can be used for things like respite care, home/vehicle modifications, and assistive technology.

Note:

Part A requires families have private insurance AND pay a monthly premium (unless exempt due to hardship)

Part B (Medical Diversion) - Up to 2,700 Children

Who is eligible?

Children who do not qualify for care in an institution, but are "at risk" of institutionalization if they do not get services. Part B is filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Benefits:

Children in Part B get a 10,000 stipend to offset healthcare costs. This stipend can be used to pay for HCBS, primary insurance premiums, or used in an Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). The funds can be used for things like respite care, therapies, and assistive devices. Children in Part B do not get full Medicaid benefits.

Part C (Continued Eligibility)

Who is eligible?

Children who are losing Medicaid and eligible for Part A, but there are no slots available in Part A at the time. Usually, they are losing their Medicaid eligibility due to an increase in parental income or assets. Children who have already lost Medicaid are ineligible for Part C.

Benefits:

Children will receive Medicaid benefits. They will not receive a stipend or funding for HCBS services. They are not required to get private insurance or pay premiums while enrolled in Part C.

Note:

Children in Part C must move to part A once a slot becomes available

How to Apply

You can apply on TennCareConnect.tn.gov or by phone at 855-259-0701. Once the application is submitted, the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) will reach out and schedule a medical review to determine what level of care the child needs

If you would like help with the application or appeals process, you can contact the Tennessee Justice Center at tnjustice.org or toll-free at 1-877-608-1009.