

# Clinical Social Work

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## PRACTICE UPDATE

### BECOMING A STATE MEDICAID PROVIDER

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Medicaid is the largest program in the nation, providing health and mental health services to more than 10 million individuals and families with low income and few resources. It became law in 1965, as a cooperative venture between federal and state governments to provide health care to eligible needy people, including children, the aged, the blind, and the disabled.

Medicaid programs vary in each state, and develop their own eligibility standards, scope of services, and payment scale. Many Medicaid programs reimburse clinical social workers in private practice.

Clinical social workers contact NASW frequently to obtain information about how to become a Medicaid provider. Three general requirements are common among states that

do reimburse clinical social workers under Medicaid. A clinical social worker must:

- Possess a master of social work degree from an accredited school of social work;
- Be licensed at the clinical level in the state of practice, or maintain a clinical certification in the absence of a required clinical license; and
- Have malpractice insurance.

Below is a list of states, with their Medicaid provider enrollment telephone numbers. Clinical social workers who wish to become Medicaid providers in their states should contact the provider enrollment office and request an application to become a provider as a clinical social worker in independent practice to provide mental health services. Some of the states listed below may not reimburse clinical social workers.

STATE	PROVIDER ENROLLMENT NUMBER
Alabama	800-688-7986
Alaska	907-561-5650
Arizona	602-417-7670
Arkansas	501-682-8323
California	916-319-8010
Colorado	303-534-0146
Connecticut	860-832-9259
Delaware	800-999-3371
District of Columbia	866-752-9231
Florida	800-377-8216
Georgia	800-766-4456
Hawaii	808-692-8099
Idaho	800-685-3757
Illinois	217-782-0538
Indiana	877-707-5750
Iowa	515-327-0950, ext. 1105
Kansas	785-291-4145

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STATE	PROVIDER ENROLLMENT NUMBER
Kentucky	877-838-5085
Louisiana	225-237-3370
Maine	207-624-7539, press 6
Maryland	410-767-5340
Massachusetts	800-332-2909
Michigan	800-292-2550
Minnesota	800-366-5411
Mississippi	800-884-3222
Missouri	573-751-2617
Montana	406-442-1837
Nebraska	402-471-9334
Nevada	877-638-3472
New Hampshire	603-224-1747
New Jersey	609-588-6036
New Mexico	505-827-3165
New York	518-486-9440
North Carolina	919-857-4017
North Dakota	800-755-2604, press 2
Ohio	614-728-3288
Oklahoma	405-522-6205
Oregon	800-422-5047
Pennsylvania	800-537-8862
Rhode Island	401-784-8100
South Carolina	803-788-7622, ext. 41650
South Dakota	605-773-3495
Tennessee	615-741-6669
Texas	512-514-3000
Utah	801-538-9050
Vermont	802-879-4450
Virginia	804-270-5105
Washington	360-725-1032
West Virginia	304-558-1764
Wisconsin	800-947-9627
Wyoming	800-251-1268

## RESOURCES

Practice Management Information Corporation. (2003). *Health insurance carrier directory: A comprehensive guide to insurance carriers and claims processing*. Los Angeles: Author.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2002). Medicaid services. [Online]. Available at: <http://cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/mSERVICE.asp>