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KCMU Medicaid Benefits Database: Eligibility Categories

The **Categorically Needy (CN or mandatory)** coverage groups are primarily:

- Low-income parents with dependent children receiving cash assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program or with income and assets meeting the state's pre-1996 welfare (AFDC) income eligibility levels;
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries;
- Pregnant women and children with family income below federally minimum levels;
- Children receiving foster care and adoption assistance under Title IV-E;
- Dual eligible Medicare beneficiaries; and
- Special protected groups including certain working disabled beneficiaries and former recipients of SSI benefits.

The most common **Medically Needy (MN or optional)** coverage groups include:

- The Poverty Level group – also called the Aged and Disabled group – individuals over age 65 or with a disability who have low income (under poverty) but do not qualify under a mandatory coverage category;
- The Medicaid “buy-in” group – disabled adults participating through authority in the federal law (BBA and/or TWWIA);
- The Special Income group – individuals receiving care in an institutional setting such as a nursing facility or ICF/IID or alternatively in a HCBS waiver program and who are not otherwise Medicaid eligible;
- Individuals who require hospice care, have low income but do not qualify under another Medicaid coverage category;
- The TEFRA group – children needing institutional care who may be served in their homes for lower cost and whose family income is not counted;
- Pregnant women and targeted children with income above the threshold for mandatory coverage but below a federally-specified higher income level;
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program participants;
- The Medically Needy group – individuals who do not meet the financial standards to qualify them for program benefits through a mandatory coverage group but may qualify by “spending down” – incurring medical bills that reduce their excess income and/or resources to qualifying levels.