

*****SPAM*** Latest Updates from the NCGA**



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
Date 2023-12-01 16:48



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

December 1, 2023

2023 Legislative Session Is Over



The NCGA ended our long session in October, following passage of the budget and the completion of redistricting. As a result, there have been no committee meetings or votes over the last two weeks. I'll keep you posted about any special sessions that may arise.

Medicaid Expansion Effective TODAY: What You Need to Know

Table 1. Top Industry Sectors for Low-Wage, Uninsured Workers [▲]		Table 2. Top Occupations for Low-Wage, Uninsured Workers	
Accommodation and food services	16.0%	Cashiers	5.6%
Administrative, support, and waste management services	10.3%	Cooks	4.6%
Construction	10.9%	Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers	3.7%
Health care and social assistance	9.2%	Waiters and waitresses	2.9%
Manufacturing	10.2%	Nursing assistants	2.6%
Other services (except public administration)	6.0%	Landscaping and groundskeeping workers	2.5%
Retail	15.4%	Janitors and building cleaners	2.5%
		Construction laborers	2.4%
		Maids and housekeeping cleaners	2.3%
		Stockers and order fillers	2.2%
		Retail salespersons	2.1%
		Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	2.1%

Note: Workers with no occupation are not listed.
Source: Georgetown University Center for Children and Families analysis of US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 2019 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).

Note: Workers with no occupation are not listed.

Today marks the launch of North Carolina's Medicaid Expansion program. Those of us who have been fighting for this for over a decade are relieved and happy this day has finally arrived. If you weren't before, you may now be eligible for coverage now.

Determining Eligibility

According to a quantitative survey on Medicaid Expansion from earlier this year, the belief that an individual is not eligible is the leading reason that prevents people from signing up. Below are some facts about the new eligibility factors:

- You are automatically eligible for Medicaid if you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State/County Special Assistance for the Aged or Disabled.
- **Expansion means that the income limitations for eligibility are expanded.** The income limits are based on your age, health needs and family size. **Adults ages 19 through 64 earning up to 138% of the federal poverty level (e.g., singles earning about \$20,000/year or families of three earning about \$34,000/year) are now eligible.** The specific income limits are based on family size and dependent on the details of your family situation. The most up-to-date information on the new income eligibility ranges can be found [here](#).
- **Only U.S. citizens or those who show proof of eligible immigration status are eligible.** Still, if you are applying for emergency services you are not required to provide documentation of immigration status. You must live in North Carolina and show proof of residency. You must have a Social Security number or show that you've applied for one.
- Listed above are the top industry sectors and occupations for low-wage, uninsured workers. **If you work in any of these sectors or occupations, you are more likely to be eligible for Medicaid.**
- There are additional programs for people who are age 65 or older, blind, disabled, pregnant, those in need of long-term care, infants and children under the age of 21, and some who already receive Medicare.
- **You may still qualify even if your income is more than these limits. The best way to find out is to apply for NC Medicaid.**

How to Apply

The best way to apply is online through [ePASS](#) to avoid having to go in person to your local Department of Social Services (DSS) office. If you cannot apply online, you can apply in person at your local DSS office, by calling your local DSS office or by mailing in a paper application available [here](#). Find your local DSS office [here](#). The processing time for applications can be up to 45 days. Applications submitted online may be processed faster. **In order to apply, you must provide the following:**

- Full legal name and date of birth, for at least one person applying
- Mailing address, for at least one person applying
- Your signature (digital, voice, or written depending on how you apply)

You can save time if you also give the following information:

- Identity documents, such as driver's license or school ID
- Social Security number (SSN) for people applying who have them, or proof they have applied for one
- Immigration documents for non-U.S. citizens who are applying
- Proof you live in North Carolina, such as a photo ID with your address, a utility bill, a lease, or documentation of employment
- Employer and income information for you and everyone in your household, such as paystubs, W-2 forms, tax returns or business records
- Copies of all medical or life insurance policies
- List of all cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, etc. you or anyone in your household own, including the year, make, model and vehicle identification number (VIN) for each item
- Most recent bank statements
- List of all real property you own (this includes land, homes and buildings)
- Current financial statements/award letters from other sources of income, such as Social Security, retirement benefits, pensions, veterans benefits and child support

You can supplement your application with missing information later. However, you'll get your decision faster if you fill it out completely. Your information will not be used for immigration enforcement. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services only uses personal information to check if you are eligible.

For a step-by-step guide on the application process, as well as additional information, click [here](#).

If you're unsure about your options, the [Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy](#) and the [NC Navigator Consortium](#) can help you. Navigator services are available by appointment and always free.

Medicaid Quick Facts

- The coverage will be comprehensive, including services like primary care, hospital stays, maternity care, vision and hearing, dental/oral health care and more.

- Medicaid pays for doctor visits, yearly check-ups, emergency care, mental health and more – at little or no cost to you. **Medicaid is free of premiums or deductibles and that the highest co-pay is only \$4.** There are no NC Medicaid co-pays for members who are under the age of 21, pregnant, receive hospice care, North Carolina Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program beneficiaries, federally recognized tribal members, those who reside within institutions who receive coverage for cost of care, or children/youth in foster care.
- Intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD), behavioral health, and traumatic brain injury (TBI) services are also free for recipients.
- Current beneficiaries with full Medicaid coverage will not see any changes.
- If you do not qualify for NC Medicaid, you have options. You may be able to get coverage through [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). You may also be able to get low-cost health care at [community health centers](#).

Important Bills Go Into Effect on December 1



There are several new laws that go into effect today. The full list of effective dates of legislation with effective dates between July 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024 can be found [here](#). Below are some of the most impactful:

- Some sections of **SB20, Care for Women, Children, and Families Act**, including a provision dealing with safe surrender of infants. A parent who follows the new law won't be prosecuted for abandoning an infant if the baby is fewer than 30 days old. The previous law was 7 days. Additionally, any person who commits any assault, assault and battery, or affray is guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor if, in the course of the assault, assault and battery, or affray, he or she assaults a pregnant woman.
- Section 1 of **SB41, Guarantee 2nd Amendment Freedom and Protections**. This section allows people to practice concealed carry of a firearm at a religious school outside of school operating hours. Concealed carry remains banned on public school property.
- Section 3 of **SB49, Parents Bill of Rights**. Under Section 3, a health care practitioner is not allowed to provide treatment for a minor if they do not have documented consent from a parent, except as otherwise provided within the bill or by court order. Additionally, a healthcare facility cannot allow treatment for a minor without documented consent from the parent, with the same exceptions. Without this consent, healthcare practitioners may face a fine of up to \$5,000.
- **SB189, Fentanyl Drug Offenses and Related Changes**. Under this law, anyone caught with more than 4 grams but less than 14 grams of an opioid will be charged with a Class F felony, may be fined, and will face 70-93 years in prison. If the opioid is a substance such as heroin or fentanyl, the fine increases from \$50,000 to \$500,000. The new law also expands the scope of death by distribution through unlawful sale of certain controlled substances. A person guilty of death by distribution will receive a first-degree murder charge if the person who supplied the deadly substance was related to or lived with the person who died as a result. The same applies if the person was ever married to or had a child in common with the deceased.
- **SB364, Nondiscrimination & Dignity in State Work**. Regulates how state employees can discuss topics like race and gender at work, including in hiring interviews. The law bans state government workplaces from "promoting" certain equity concepts or using them in training.
- Section 37 of **SB747, Elections Law Changes**. This section states that anyone with access to official voted ballots or records who shares how someone voted on that ballot can be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor. It will also be deemed a Class 1 misdemeanor if one impersonates a chief judge, judge of election, or another precinct official, or if anyone other than an employee with the North Carolina State Board of Elections or a county board of elections adds an identifier to any absentee ballot request form for tracking said ballot.
- **HB40, Prevent Rioting and Civil Disorder**. Increases penalties for rioting, or inciting rioting, that causes serious injury and property damage, including if a person causes more than \$2,500 in damage during a riot or serious bodily injury, or if the person causes a death while rioting.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

NC Judges Block Elections Law SB749



On Thursday, a bipartisan panel of judges unanimously granted Governor Roy Cooper's request to block **SB749, No Partisan Advantage in Elections**. Each time SB749 has reached the Senate Floor for votes, I have voted no for several reasons. SB749 would restructure the State Board of Elections by increasing the number of members from five to eight, stripping the governor of the ability to appoint members, and instead giving the power to appoint members to the Senate leader, House speaker and House and Senate minority leaders. **Based on the false premise that our current system is unfair, this bill is designed to increase the legislature's influence on election administration and make it more partisan and less secure.** A similar bill was struck down as unconstitutional in 2018 and the idea was rejected by the voters in a ballot initiative in 2018 as well. While this ruling is temporary, pending a full trial, the court's rejection of the bill is good for voters and our state constitution. Read more [here](#).

Senator Marcus in the Community



Today, I attended the **NC Medicaid Expansion Kickoff Event** at Goodwill Industries in Charlotte, **led by Governor Cooper and Health and Human Services Secretary Kody Kinsley**. We heard from Penny, who battled life-threatening conditions without any health insurance 10 years ago and was overjoyed to finally get her Medicaid card today.



Last weekend was National Trail Day, sponsored by **Sierra Club**. I marked the occasion with a hike in Blowing Rock on the Glen Burney Trail where we saw waterfalls. The weather was a perfect 52 degrees and sunny.

Mecklenburg County to Host On-Site HOMES Weekend Application Fair on December 9

MECKLENBURG COUNTY HOMEOWNERS DON'T MISS OUT!

HOMES program grants can save you up to **\$660**

27 NOV **WEEKDAY EVENT, in-person assistance available:**
Valerie C Woodard Community Resource Center & Ella B. Scarborough Community Resource Center
8 AM - 4:30 PM

9 DEC **WEEKEND APPLICATION FAIR, one-on-one help:**
Ella B. Scarborough Community Resource Center
430 Sitt Rd., Charlotte 28213 (Next to Kimbrell's Furniture)
9 AM - 12 PM

13-15 DEC **WEEKDAY EVENTS, in-person assistance available:**
Valerie C Woodard Community Resource Center & Ella B. Scarborough Community Resource Center
8 AM - 4:30 PM

Mecklenburg County is hosting an in-person Homes Weekend Application Fair ahead of the new December 15 deadline for **residents to apply for housing assistance grant funds**. The upcoming application fair is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at the [Ella B. Scarborough Community Resource Center](#) located at 430 Sitt Road, Charlotte, NC 28213 from 9:00AM - 12:00 PM. Residents are encouraged to review the application requirements prior to attending the event. To get a decision on the same day, applicants are encouraged to bring documentation for income verification, such as, their 2022: W2, W4, 1099-DIV, 1099-INT, 1099-G, SSA-1099, SSI a complete IRS 1040 or proof of alimony.

Homeowners who are unable to attend the event can complete an application with staff assistance by visiting the [Ella B. Scarborough Community Resource Center](#) or the [Valerie C. Woodard Community Resource Center](#) (3205 Freedom Drive, Suite 1000, Charlotte, NC 28208) between December 13 and December 15.

Over the Counter Medicine Giveaway December 9



NC MedAssist Pharmacy will give away **free over-the-counter medicines** on Saturday, December 9, from Renaissance West STEAM Academy (3241 New Renaissance Way, Charlotte, NC 28208). Order online or learn more [here](#).

Cornelius Flooring Business Racked Up \$400,000 From Customers Before Abandoning Projects



Attorney General Josh Stein says Flowers Flooring, a flooring business in Cornelius and Winston-Salem, violated North Carolina's Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act when it took money for never-completed projects. From February to August of this year, the business deceived customers by requiring deposits for back-ordered materials that were never delivered or installed by the promised date. No refunds were issued.

If Flowers Flooring owes you a refund, you should file a claim with Attorney General Josh Stein's Office. Complaints against businesses operating unlawfully can be filed [here](#) or at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

Read more [here](#).

COVID Updates and Information



Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order an additional four free at-home tests beginning November 20. If you did not order tests this fall, you may place two orders for a total of eight tests.

Your order of COVID tests is completely free, including shipping. Order your free at-home tests [here](#), or call 1-800-232-0233 for help.

Links to Helpful Information

Domestic Violence Hotline: If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence or partner abuse, please call [Safe Alliance](#) at **704-332-2513** and they can help you.

Mecklenburg's County Bar [website](#) provides a list of pro bono resources for those unable to afford legal counsel.

Mecklenburg's Department of Community Resources provides individuals and families with [immediate access](#) to a diverse range of Mecklenburg County Health and Human Services programs and community partner services in Community Resources Centers throughout the County.

Mecklenburg's Energy Assistance Programs: Do you need help paying your heating or cooling bills? Mecklenburg offers [two different programs](#) to help eligible low-income households with their energy needs.

Property Tax values and histories in Mecklenburg County can be searched on [this site](#) that includes links to Polaris and information about past assessments. You can find more detailed information on real estate values on the [Mecklenburg](#) site.

Suicide Prevention: If you have thoughts of harming yourself, **please call or text 988**, the Suicide Prevention Hotline for help.

Unclaimed Cash! Visit [NCCash.com](#) today to see if you have unclaimed property under the supervision of the NC Treasurer's office. More info [here](#).

Voter Information: You can find your current information on the [NC Voter Lookup page](#).

Free Property Tax Assistance Services



Do you need help with your property taxes? The [Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy](#) is providing free assistance to help homeowners prepare their NC property tax relief applications. Call **980-256-7952** or visit their website to learn more [here](#).

Financial Update on the State's General Fund

Beginning Cash, Friday, November 17	16,500,994,884.57
Add Receipts:	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	1,459,951,230.57
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	1,596,821,769.01
Less Disbursements:	
Payroll	457,400,514.16
State Aid	101,082,883.61
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	2,811,917,260.14
Tax Refunds/Distributions	71,140,862.91
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	351,732,159.20
Ending Cash, Friday, November 24	15,764,494,204.13
Less Reserved Cash:	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	866,505,302.99
Other Reserves	28,183,261.56
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	133,837,075.59
Carry Forward Reserve	279,973,223.32
Clean Water Drinking Water Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Capital Projects Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Earthquake Disaster Recovery Reserve	0.00
Economic Development Project Reserve	249,900,000.00
Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	95,328,642.00
Housing Reserve	0.00
Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve	58,495,081.17
Information Technology Reserve	108,943,174.00
Local Fiscal Recovery Reserve-ARPA	0.00
Local Govt Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Local Project Reserve	0.00
Medicaid Contingency Reserve	326,512,736.00
Medicaid Transformation Reserve	155,642,170.00
NC GREAT Reserve	0.00
NC Innovation Reserve	0.00
Opioid Abatement Reserve	9,257,779.43
Public School Contingency Reserve	0.00
Public School Need Based Capital Reserve	0.00
Reg Economic Dev Reserve	0.00
Repairs and Renovations Reserve	0.00
Retiree Supplement Reserve	0.00
SCIF General Fund Reserve	0.00
Savings Reserve	4,750,001,113.98
Stabilization and Inflation Reserve	1,000,000,000.00
State Emergency Response/Disaster Reserve	872,193,044.47
Transportation Reserve	0.00
Unfunded Liability Solvency Reserve	10,000,000.00
Wilmington Harbor Enhancements Reserve	283,800,000.00
World University Games Reserve	0.00
Unreserved Cash Balance, Friday, November 24	6,535,921,599.62

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, November 24. OSC provides a weekly update on the State's General Fund cash position which can be found at osc.nc.gov. **The current unreserved cash balance in state coffers is \$6.535 billion.**

The State Controller is North Carolina's chief fiscal officer and serves as an independent resource to ensure the financial integrity of the State.

Contact Our Office

Phone: (919) 715-3050

Email:

Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.gov

Sarah.E.Reynolds@ncleg.gov

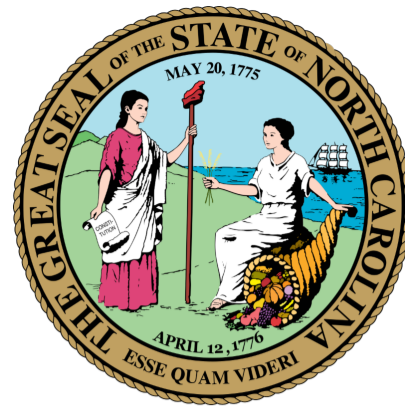
Sara

Mailing Address:

300 N. Salisbury Street,

Rm. 519

Raleigh, NC 27603



How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



Sen. Natasha Marcus, District 41 | 300 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

[Unsubscribe sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!