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Stefan Johansson  
Director

Mark Gordon  
Governor

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January 30, 2024

Ref.: J-2024-187

Dear Wyoming Resident:

The Wyoming Department of Health is implementing significant changes to its State-funded behavioral health services delivered through Behavioral Health Centers (BHCs).

**What is changing?**

Starting July 1, 2024, the State will only pay for the treatment of BHC clients who:

- (1) Have a household income that is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) AND do not have public or private health insurance.

OR

- (2) Fall into a “priority populations” category that are established by State law (W.S. 35-1-613 et. seq).

This change will not affect services provided from now until the end of June 2024, Medicaid, or private insurance payments, nor will it prohibit your BHC from treating you as a private-pay client if you do not meet these criteria after July 1, 2024.

**How does this affect me now?**

To implement this change, every client wishing to receive State-paid services must be screened for eligibility by completing a Wyoming Medicaid application. We are beginning these screenings on February 1, 2024.

Once you have completed an application, you should be notified within 45 days regarding either eligibility for Medicaid or income eligibility for the State BHC benefit.

### **What do I do when I get an eligibility determination?**

It is important to note that income is only one component of eligibility. Even if you have a household income greater than the limit, you may still qualify for services if you fall under one of the priority population categories.

This component of eligibility is significantly more complex and may require a behavioral health assessment by the BHC, which will be provided to you free of charge.

Please note: if passed during the 2024 Wyoming Legislative Budget Session, proposed legislation House Bill 0005 would allow residents with insurance to qualify based on income until 2026.

### **Where can I go for more information?**

Please talk with the staff at your local BHC or visit <https://health.wyo.gov/behavioralhealth/mhsa/treatment/bhc-benefit-plans/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stefan Johansson', written over a faint blue line.

Stefan Johansson, Director  
Wyoming Department of Health

SJ/FF/jg