

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Healthy Connections

MEDICAID



January 2026

Table of Contents

Objective/Goal 2

Purpose and Scope of the Beneficiary Advisory Council 2

Eligibility Criteria 2

Application Review Committee 3

Interview and Selection Process 3

Notification 3

Application Selection Process for Healthy Connections Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council

The South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) will be made up of no more than 12 members. These members should reflect and represent the diversity of the Healthy Connections Medicaid population. This document outlines the BAC application process.

Objective/Goal

The goal of this process is to create a clear, complete and fair method for choosing applicants for the BAC. The process should make sure a diverse group representative of Healthy Connections Medicaid members is selected. The group should also be able to give a full picture on the needs and concerns of this population.

Purpose and Scope of the BAC

- **Mission:** The BAC will inform SCDHHS of their experience with the Healthy Connections Medicaid program. It will suggest ways to improve it too.
- **Role of Council Members:** The council should act on behalf of Healthy Connections Medicaid members' interests. BAC members will give feedback on the state's Medicaid program and suggest how it can improve.
- **Service Term:** Attendance is required to be on the BAC, unless excused. It is key to conduct business. BAC members will serve either a two-year or three-year term. Members will be picked at random to serve a two-year or three-year term.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet these minimum requirements.

- **Medicaid Status:** Applicants must be a current Healthy Connections Medicaid member or have been in the past two years. A paid or unpaid caregiver of a Healthy Connections Medicaid member can also apply.
- **Geography:** Applicants should be from a range of regions within the state (urban, suburban, rural).
- **Demographics:** Applicants must be diverse in race, ethnicity, age, disability status and other relevant demographics.
- **Experience:** Applicants should have personal experience in accessing and/or using Medicaid services.
- **Type of Medicaid:** Applicants should represent a mix of the state's Medicaid population. This includes:
 - Healthy Connections Medicaid members who use waiver services. Current Medicaid waivers include:
 - Community Choices
 - Community Supports
 - Head and Spinal Cord Injury
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Mechanical Ventilator Dependent
 - Medically Complex Children
 - Medicaid members in managed care plans. Plans include Absolute Total Care, First Choice by Select Health, Healthy Blue by BlueChoice Health Plan of South Carolina, Humana Healthy Horizons in South Carolina and Molina Healthcare.

- Parents who are caring for children who are eligible for Healthy Connections Medicaid through TEFRA, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI), foster care or adoption from foster care, household income or due to a stay in the NICU.
- Adults with disabilities who qualify for SSI or the Aged, Blind and Disabled or Working Medicaid categories.
- Older adults who qualify for Healthy Connections Medicaid and are living in their homes or in a nursing home.

Application Review Committee

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has formed an Application Review Committee (ARC) to look at all BAC applications.

- **Evaluation Criteria:**
 - **Diversity:** Ensure a balanced representation of Healthy Connections Medicaid members. This includes demographics, where they live, what type of Medicaid they have and what services they use.
 - **Experience:** Assess the applicant's experience with and knowledge of Healthy Connections Medicaid.
 - **Commitment:** Weigh the applicant's ability to attend and actively share in meetings and discussions.
- **Score and Rank:** ARC members will rate applicants on key criteria (e.g., 1-5 scale for each area) to ensure a fair and objective process. Applicants with higher scores will be ranked higher.

Interview and Selection Process

- **Shortlist:** Based on the evaluation criteria, the ARC will create a shortlist of top candidates.
- **Interviews:** The ARC *may* conduct interviews with shortlisted candidates if they choose. These may be held virtually or in-person.
- **Final Selection:** The ARC selects a final group of applicants. These recommendations are shared with the Medicaid director. The Medicaid director will choose the BAC members.

Notification

- **Selected Applicants:** Members chosen for the BAC will be notified by email, letter, or phone call. This is when the members will get more details such as meeting dates and times, term limits and what they will need to do as part of the BAC.
- **Waiting List:** SCDHHS will keep a list of applicants who want to serve on the BAC. The application will stay posted on the website for Medicaid members who would like to join the BAC. It can be filled out at any time. Openings will be filled as outlined in this document and the BAC bylaws, which can be found at <https://www.scdhhs.gov/partners/committees-and-groups#BeneficiaryAdvisoryCouncilBAC>.