



# **TennCare 101:**

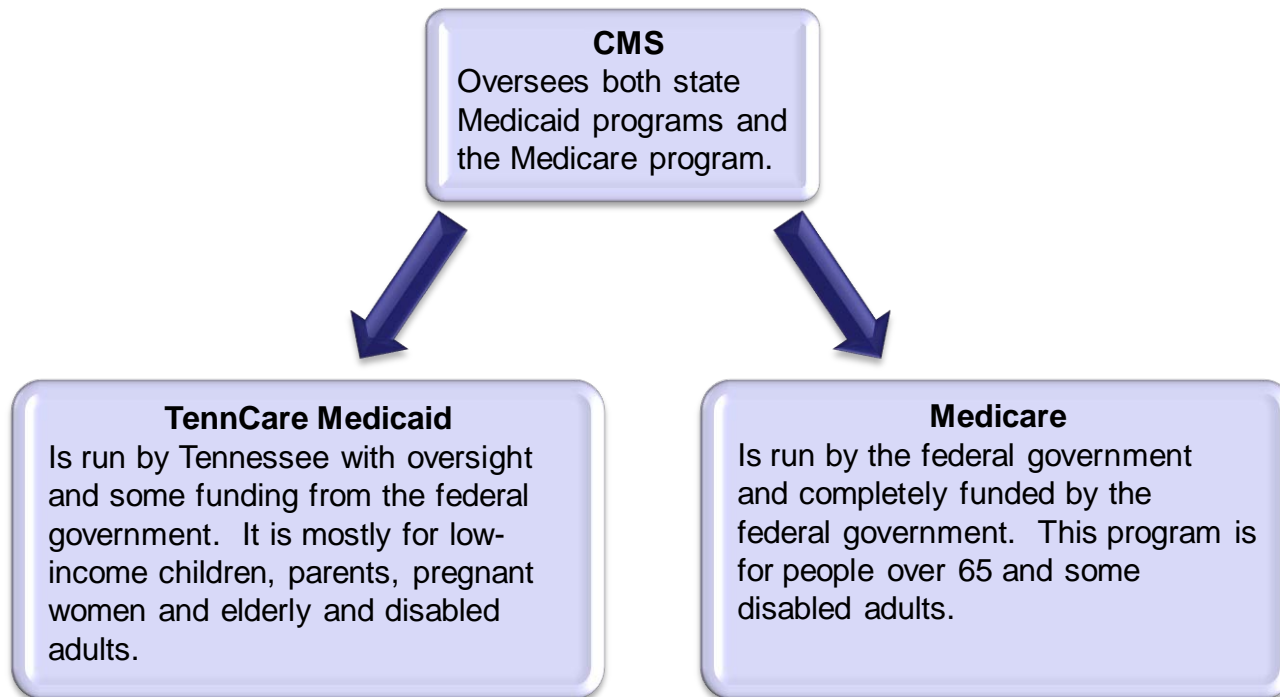
## **Explaining the Basics of Medicaid in Tennessee**

**Updated January 2011**



# What is TennCare?

- TennCare is Tennessee's Medicaid program. It is run by the state of Tennessee with oversight by the U.S. or federal government.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or CMS is the department within the federal government that oversees both Medicaid and Medicare.
- Although they are often mistaken for the same program, Medicaid and Medicare are two different programs. Some people can be on both Medicaid and Medicare.





# What is TennCare?

## TennCare is the State of Tennessee's Medicaid Program

TennCare is a **Medicaid** program that operates within Medicaid guidelines set by the U.S. or federal government. The State of Tennessee and the federal government share the cost of providing health care for those who qualify.

Those who qualify for TennCare are known as "**TennCare enrollees**".

TennCare enrollees are primarily low-income: children, pregnant women, parents of minor children, and people who are elderly or have a disability.



# What is TennCare?

TennCare is a  
“demonstration” or “waiver”  
Medicaid program.

The federal government allows the TennCare program to run differently than other Medicaid programs by “**waiving**” some federal Medicaid program regulations.

TennCare must “**demonstrate**” it can operate the program differently than traditional Medicaid without costing more money than traditional Medicaid.



# What is TennCare?

TennCare differs from traditional Medicaid for many reasons including:

## Use of Managed Care

- TennCare is 100 percent Managed Care – meaning everyone who is on TennCare receives coordinated health services through a Managed Care Organization or MCO.
- This helps reduce costs because of better coordination of care and increases the quality of care for enrollees by ensuring appropriate care and preventative care.
- TennCare uses a “Medical Home” model where all enrollees are matched with a primary care physician to provide patient-centered care and ensure the appropriate care is provided at each step.

## Integrated Behavioral Health

- Enrollees in need of behavioral health or mental health care receive that care in a coordinated manner through one of TennCare’s MCOs.
- This allows for better coordination of care because the one entity, the MCO, knows all the different types of medical and behavioral health treatments and medications an enrollee is undergoing or taking.

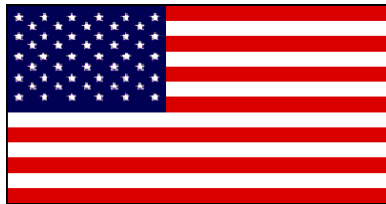
## Integrated Long-Term Care

- TennCare has integrated long-term care services for the elderly and adults with physical disabilities like nursing home services and home and community based services into managed care.
- Home and community based services or HCBS include services like home delivered meals, personal care like helping someone get out of bed or take a bath, and home-maker services like cleaning and doing the laundry.
- This allows TennCare to serve more people in their homes.



# How is TennCare funded?

TennCare is funded with both federal and state funds.



\$.65



\$.35

About **65 cents** comes from the federal government and **35 cents** comes from the state government on every dollar spent on medical services for TennCare enrollees.





# How does TennCare work?

Tennessee residents go to their local Department of Human Services (DHS) office and apply for the program.

People who are unable to visit their local DHS office can call  
**1-866-311-4287**

Employees at DHS evaluate the application and may ask for additional information through phone calls or in-person interviews.

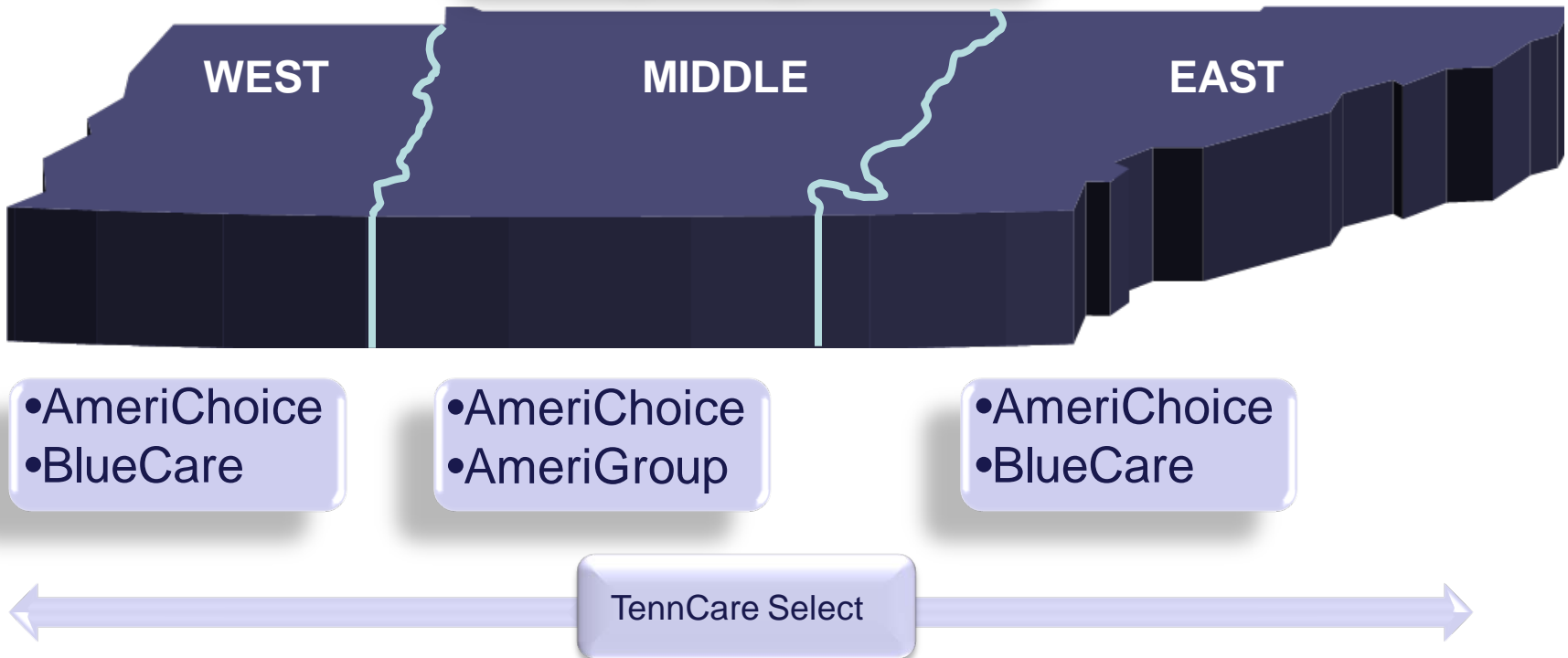
Most people who qualify are low-income: children, parents of dependent children, pregnant women, and elderly and disabled adults.

Once someone qualifies and is enrolled in TennCare, that person or "enrollee" chooses or is assigned to one of two Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) in their region.



# How does TennCare work?

## TennCare MCOs by Region



TennCare Select is the MCO for foster children, children receiving SSI, and children under 21 in a nursing facility or ICF-MR. TennCare Select also serves as the state's back-up MCO.



# TennCare Counties by Region

## WEST TENNESSEE

Benton, Carroll, Chester,  
Crockett, Decatur, Dyer,  
Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman,  
Hardin, Haywood,  
Henderson, Henry, Lake,  
Lauderdale, Madison,  
McNairy, Obion, Shelby,  
Tipton, Weakley

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Bedford, Cannon,  
Cheatham, Clay, Coffee,  
Cumberland, Davidson,  
DeKalb, Dickson, Fentress,  
Giles, Hickman, Houston,  
Humphreys, Jackson,  
Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln,  
Macon, Marshall, Maury,  
Montgomery, Moore,  
Overton, Perry, Pickett,  
Putnam, Robertson,  
Rutherford, Smith, Stewart,  
Sumner, Trousdale, Van  
Buren, Warren, Wayne,  
White, Williamson, Wilson

## EAST TENNESSEE

Anderson, Bledsoe, Blount,  
Bradley, Campbell, Carter,  
Claiborne, Cocke, Franklin,  
Grainger, Greene, Grundy,  
Hamblen, Hamilton,  
Hancock, Hawkins,  
Jefferson, Johnson, Knox,  
Loudon, Marion, McMinn,  
Meigs, Monroe, Morgan,  
Polk, Rhea, Roane, Scott,  
Sequatchie, Sevier,  
Sullivan, Unicoi, Union,  
Washington



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