

Qualifying for Medical Assistance through Disability

There are two paths to qualify for MA: disability and income. With new federal legislation, the income-based path now has additional work requirements, where the disability-based path does not. In order to qualify for MA through the disability path, you must become certified disabled. There are two methods: the State Medical Review Team (SMRT) or social security. This guide will walk you through the SMRT process.

Step 1: Contact your county's "front door"

Google the phrase "[YOUR COUNTY] front door" and call the number list. Say you would like to apply for MA based on disability. This will initiate the process of the State Medical Review Team reviewing your medical documentation to determine disability status.

TIP: if you're already on MA through income, request to be SMRTed to adjust your MA to disability based.

Step 2: Fill out paperwork

Your county will open a case and send you all the necessary paperwork you'll need to fill out. You will not have to set up an appointment or meet with anyone: the process is done entirely through paperwork. If you misplace or forget a form, you can find them all on the SMRT website. Make sure you return all the documents in a timely manner.

TIP: Gather all of your own medical records and submit them yourself. You only need to include records related to your disability.

Step 3: Wait to receive your determination

You may have to wait for a long time to hear back about whether you have been determined disabled or not.

If you are determined disabled:

You will be enrolled in MA for disability (or moved from income-based to disability-based. If you were already on income-based MA, this will not change anything else.

If you are determined not disabled:

You can appeal the decision. There will be instructions in the letter you receive.

What is Medical Assistance?

"Medical Assistance (MA) is Minnesota's Medicaid program for people with low income. MA is Minnesota's largest health care program and serves children and families, pregnant women, adults without children, seniors and people who are blind or have a disability."

-MN.gov