

Helpful Tips for Applying to a MAC or BAC

What information will be asked for on the application?

Each state has its own requirements, so forms may vary.

Most state applications start with basic demographic information. Some states may also ask about your experience with Medicaid or other aspects of your background, such as your role as a caregiver or your lived experience with a disability or chronic condition.

If any question makes you feel uncomfortable or unsure, please get in touch with the MAC/BAC contact listed on the application or, if you would like support with your application, reach out to the EveryLife Foundation team at info@everylifefoundation.org. Nothing on the application should discourage you from applying. Your voice matters — remember that you know your experience and that helps drive change.

“Why would you like to be involved with the MAC/BAC?”

Some states may ask this question. Unsure how to answer?

Here is a basic outline to help:

1. Context / Who You Are

Are you a Medicaid member or a caregiver? How did Medicaid become part of your life?

2. A Defining Experience

Was there a turning point or major moment? This could be a challenge (like losing coverage or not finding services) or a positive experience (like getting a wheelchair through a waiver or finally accessing in-home support).

3. What Happened Next

What was the result of that experience? Did Medicaid help meet your needs — or fall short?

4. What You Learned

How did this affect your health, your day-to-day life, your finances, or your well-being? What insight do you now have?

5. What You Want Decision-Makers to Know

Wrap it up with a message: What do you hope the people reviewing your application will understand about your story, or about what needs to change in Medicaid?

Sample Application Response

Check out this application a fellow Advocate shared that used this guide to apply for a position on their state's BAC:

I am a caregiver for my adult daughter, who has a rare genetic condition that affects her mobility, digestion, and immune system. She has been covered by state waiver services for over 15 years. A few years ago, her Medicaid waiver services were unexpectedly reduced. Overnight, we lost access to the home health services, which had become critical to our daily routine. I had to reduce my work hours, which caused financial strain and stress for our whole family. It took months of calls and appeals to get the hours restored, and even once they were restored, things weren't the same as we had lost access to the established staff that understood my daughter's needs and how to assist her to be her most independent self.

Through that process, I learned how critical it is to not just accept decisions as final, document everything, and stay informed. I also realized how many other caregivers do not have the time or knowledge to fight through the system. Medicaid has been life-changing for us. Without it, we would not have access to medical equipment, therapies, or basic daily care. But it can also be confusing, inconsistent, and difficult to navigate. I have seen how important clear communication, cultural understanding, and consistent coverage is to a person's quality of life. I want to be part of the MAC/BAC to make sure families like mine are heard before decisions are made, not just after something breaks. I believe stories like ours and firsthand experience are essential to creating policies that work.

Where can I find the application for my state's MAC/BAC?

You can find more information about your state's MAC/ BAC Application on our [Payer Engagement: Families and Patients website](#). There you can also find additional information in the Resources section, including and FAQ, a Guide for Preparing to Engage, and a Glossary.



About the EveryLife Foundation

The EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering the rare disease patient community to advocate for impactful, science-driven legislation and policy that advances the equitable development of and access to lifesaving diagnoses, treatments and cures.
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