

## **Gold Card**

The **Gold Card** is a Texas public health benefit that provides subsidized medical costs. Your first step in obtaining a gold card is to call for an appointment. You may call the Harris County Hospital District's Gold Card Hotline 713-678-1003 to schedule an interview with a gold card representative at a location nearest you.

Below are some helpful tips with regards to obtaining a Gold Card.

### **What you need to bring to your appointment:**

To establish your eligibility requirements, you will need to provide proof for the following six items:

#### **1. Identification**

A valid driver's license or state of Texas ID card

#### **I.D. Options**

If you don't have a current Texas driver's license, you may use one of the following to provide proof of identification:

#### **Preferred Identification**

- Identification card issued by Texas Dept. of Public Safety
- Current employee job badge with picture
- Passport with picture
- Immigration document with picture
- Credit card with picture

#### **Alternate Identification**

Birth Certificate (married women may not use this item)

Popras form infant (under 90 days old)

Hospital arm band (infant under 90 days old)

Infant birth fact record (infants under 90 days old)

Baptismal or other religious record

#### **2. County Residency**

Two utility bills with your name from within the last 60 days from any of the following utility companies: electric, telephone, water, natural gas or cable.

You may chose, instead, to provide one utility bill accompanied by a valid Houston apartment Association lease (both documents must use your name)

#### **Residency Documents**

If you can't provide two utility bills or one bill accompanied by a valid Houston

Apartment Association lease, you have some options available to you. You may fulfill the proof of residency requirement by providing two of the following items:

**Preferred proofs:**

- School records for children under age 18
- Monthly mortgage coupon

**Alternate Proofs**

- Rental verification form (when no lease exists)
- Credit card billing statement in your name
- Property tax documents
- Automobile insurance documents (unexpired)
- Income tax documents
- Certification document or benefit checks from Social Security or Texas\* Workforce Commission
- Letter from recognized social services agency (signed by agency's director or designee)
- Voter's registration card (unexpired)
- Texas driver's license or I.D. card issued by Dept of Public Safety (unexpired only and must be accompanied by an item from above that is dated within past 60 days)

*\* One proof must be dated within past 60 days; the other may be up to one year old.*

**3. Household income**

Proof of household income during the past 30 days

Base on your family's income, size and the insurance information you provide, we can determine what level of financial assistance you qualify for. It is necessary to prove the income for all family members who live with you, even if only one family member is applying for gold Card.

If you currently have no household income, you must show how you are living. If someone is helping you financially, you will need to have that person or organization complete an HCHD supporter statement.

**What you'll need to show:**

If you are employed, you must provide all of your household's pay stubs from the last 30 days (4 pay stubs if paid weekly, 2 pay stubs if paid twice monthly).

If you are self-employed, you will need your most recent IRS 1040 form and Schedule C.

If you are unemployed, you will need to show proof of payments from Texas

Employment Commission, an HCHD wage letter signed by your last employer, proof of your retirement income or an HCHD supporter statement.

If you are disabled, you will need to show check stubs from your disability payments and a statement from a doctor indicating projected length of disability.

Note: Depending on your circumstances, you may also be asked to provide tax documents, pay stubs from the past month, bank statements, sworn bookkeeper's statement, final divorce decree, proof of retirement income, social security benefits or other payments received. Medicare recipients are required by Federal regulation to present proof of assets and other third party coverage

#### **4. Family Dependents**

To establish parental or guardian relationship, bring a birth certificate or guardianship document in your household  
Dependent Relationships

If you cannot provide a birth certificate or guardian ship document for each dependent in your household, you will need to provide one of the following:

- Baptismal record showing names of both parent and child
- Your most recent IRS 1040 Form
- Social Security Award letter with dependents' names
- Divorce Decree
- Insurance or school documents showing names of both parent and child
- Any document which shows parent or guardian-child relationship
- Popras Form, birth fact or hospital armband for babies within 90 days

#### **5. Insurance Converge**

Bring health insurance cards or plan information if you currently have healthcare insurance

#### **6. I.N.S Status**

Non-U.S. citizens should provide Immigration and Naturalization Service documents. Persons with certain restricted visas are no eligible for Gold Card financial assistance.

By providing these six items you will help ensure your Gold Card application goes smoothly. If you are having difficulty finding or providing any of the items mentioned above, call the nearest eligibility center to ask about other documents or proofs you may submit

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q. What do I need to have ready to call for a clinic appointment?**

A. You should have your Harris County Hospital District Gold Card or the follow up instruction sheet or consultation form from your last visit at the hospital or clinic. You should also have a calendar nearby to check for dates you have available for an appointment.

**Q. What if my District Gold Card is out of date, or I don't have one?**

A. Call 713 678 1003 to talk with Gold Card Representative and request a valid Gold Card. If you haven't applied for a Gold Card, schedule an appointment with Gold Card representative to apply.

**Q. What can I do if I don't have everything?**

A. Call 713 678 1003 to talk with a Gold Card Representative or manager. Tell them your situation and see if there is any way they can help you through the process.

**Q. How do I make a clinic appointment?**

A. Call 713 526 4243 to make an appointment with any of the healthcare providers throughout the Harris County Hospital District. The District's Appointment Center is open. Monday through Friday. From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Q. Will I be asked to certify the information I have provided?**

A. Yes it is important that you understand you are liable for the accuracy and truthfulness of the information you provide during the application process. Legal actions can result from the discovery of fraudulent claim or false information being provided to gain access to Harris County's Healthcare services.

**Do I have everything I need?**

- Picture identification.
- A valid driver's license or State of Texas ID Card.
- County residency
- Two utility bills with your name from within the last 60 days from any of the following utility companies: electric, telephone, water, natural gas or cable.
- You may choose, instead, to provide one utility bill accompanied by a valid Houston Apartment association lease (both documents must use your name)

**Household income**

- Proof of entire household's income during the past 30 days

**Health insurance card or plan documents, If you currently have healthcare insurance.**

## **I.N.S. Status**

- Immigration and Naturalization Service documents.

Registering for a Gold card is one of the Best Thing You can do for yourself, and for your family. For your convenience, there are several eligibility centers strategically located throughout Harris County. You should decide which center is most convenient for you.

Baytown Eligibility Center (281-427 6757)  
1602 Garth Road, Baytown, TX 77520

Southwest Eligibility Center (713 995 3500)  
6654 Hornwood, Houston TX 77074

Acres Home Eligibility Center (281 447 6002)  
8111 Lawn, Houston, TX 77088

South Loop Eligibility Center (713 643 3691)  
5959 Long Drive, Houston TX 77087

Strawberry Eligibility Center (713 740 8180)  
925 Shaw Rd, Pasadena, TX 77506

Once you receive your Gold Card, You will be assigned to the Community Health program Clinic closest to your home. The assigned clinic is where you and your family will receive your primary healthcare.

## Healthcare for Children

**The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** - The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is designed for families who earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid, yet cannot afford to buy private insurance for their children. CHIP coverage provides eligible children with coverage for a full range of health services including regular checkups, immunizations, prescription drugs, lab tests, X-rays, hospital visits and more. For additional information, please visit <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/chip/index.html>.

## **General Healthcare Information**

**Texas Health and Human Services Commission** - The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) provides leadership and direction, and fosters the spirit of innovation needed to achieve an efficient and effective health and human services system for Texans. They provide the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food Stamps and Nutritional Programs
- Family Violence Services
- Refugee Services
- Disaster Assistance

For additional information, please go to <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/default.htm>.

## **Texas Southern University Health Services**

**TSU Student Health Center** - The Student Health Center offers medical care and educational programs to all students currently enrolled at Texas Southern University. The Student Health Center is located off Tierwester Street on parking lot D. To provide care when needed, the clinic is open year-round and operates on a walk-in basis. The nurses are on duty Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm. The physician is available from 9:00am-10:00am and 2:00pm-5:00pm daily. Students may contact the clinic at (713) 313-7173. *Health insurance* is also provided through the university. For additional information please visit <http://www.tsu.edu/student/services/health/>.