



When Care Helps You Thrive

Nicole L. - Silver Spring, Maryland



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That's Medicaid shares stories of people covered by Medicaid at critical points in their lives, underscoring the importance of stable health insurance coverage in building a Culture of Health.

Nicole has autism, anxiety, and a number of other health challenges and was receiving aid from Maryland's Low Intensity Support Services program after she moved to the state in 2016. The assistance it provided did not cover dental care, and when she needed her wisdom teeth pulled she joined the Medicaid buy-in program.

As part of state legislation, the buy-in program allows working individuals with disabilities whose personal finances exceed the limits to purchase Medicaid coverage. This allows them to access the health care services and support they need without having to choose between working and qualifying for Medicaid.

"It really helps people with developmental disabilities who do not work full time," she says.

As a result of her experiences and roadblocks she has faced, Nicole spends time and energy advocating for those with disabilities.

"Being disabled is expensive," she says.

As the pandemic continues she says she will continue to work for expanding access Medicaid to be for those who are suffering from the many facets of COVID-19.

"Medicaid is a lifeline," Nicole says.