



WHAT IS MEDICAID?

Medicaid, called Medi-Cal in California, is a public health insurance program. About 70 million people use Medicaid in the United States. This includes 23 million adults and children with disabilities. Every state has Medicaid, although the program varies from state to state, and it is funded by a combination of funds from federal and state government. While states operate the program and make significant choices about coverage and who is eligible, the federal government establishes program guidelines and monitors program implementation.

Medicaid is a vital part of the U.S. healthcare system, providing a significant source of funding for hospitals (especially in rural and under-resourced areas), community health centers, physicians, and nursing homes.

Currently there are 14,478,000 Californians on Medi-Cal. 2 out of 7 enrollees (43%) are children. 1 out of 9 enrollees have three or more chronic conditions. 40% of the births in the state of California are covered by Medi-Cal. The majority (68%) of adults are working.

What is Medicaid Expansion?

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) expanded Medicaid to cover low-income adults up to 138% of the poverty level. While the ACA initially required this expansion, a 2012 Supreme Court ruling made the expansion optional. To date, 41 states (including the District of Columbia) have adopted the expansion.

Evidence has been well-documented that Medicaid significantly improves patient health, decreases mortality for numerous conditions, and increases access to preventative services, chronic disease management, and essential treatment. Research shows that Medicaid expansion can lead to improved access to care, reduced mortality rates, and better health outcomes for enrollees. Children covered by Medicaid experience better long-term health, higher educational attainment and greater economic stability in adulthood.

Why are we advocating for Medicaid?

Congress is currently seeking to cut Medicaid by around \$625-800 billion dollars over the next 10 years. This would be devastating for millions of people, including many people with bleeding disorders across the country.



These cuts will have a disproportionate impact on California, which has almost 20% of the Medicaid population nationwide. And while the State has invested significant resources, the anticipated cut of \$10-20 billion annually to California alone will likely be impossible to backfill.

These proposed cuts come in many forms – work requirements, block grants, per capita caps and Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) changes. By any name, these cuts will hurt children, people with disabilities, older adults and other low-income individuals.

In a typical year, around 30% of people with bleeding disorders are on Medicaid across the country. In California, with Medi-Cal and California Children's Services (CCS) this number is closer to 50%. Not only will this be devastating for those individuals who could lose their coverage, it has the potential to be destabilizing to the whole health care system – putting the sustainability of the Hemophilia Treatment Centers at risk for all patients.

OUR REQUEST

Protect Medicaid

Congress must save Medicaid, by refusing to pass proposed cuts like work requirements and more frequent redeterminations and preserve current Medicaid funding. This program is critical to maintain health care for millions of Americans, particularly children, disabled and older Americans.

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