

Toplines

1. Medicaid is important for people with disabilities, children, older adults, healthcare providers, and people living in rural communities. Rural areas mostly have land where the houses are very spread out.
2. Medicaid is helpful and helps to keep costs low. It is also flexible for what people need.
3. Medicaid is creative and there are always new ideas that are making it better. The program works so that people can be healthier in the future and save money on healthcare.

Key Definitions

Home and Community-Based Services and Long-Term Services and Supports are part of the Medicaid program.

Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) help disabled people live our everyday lives. Some kinds of LTSS are job coaches, in-home helpers, or direct service providers.

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) is what it is called when people get LTSS in their community.



Why is Medicaid important for people with disabilities, children, older adults, healthcare providers, and people who live in rural communities?

- Many people with disabilities get help from Medicaid. Medicaid helps people get healthcare. It helps people who cannot pay for health insurance.

Here are Some Reasons:

- Medicaid helps people with disabilities and older adults be independent and live and work in the community. It helps people with disabilities stay out of institutions. It also helps caregivers and people who take care of their family members pay for their own healthcare.
- There are hospitals in rural areas—which are areas that mostly have land where the houses are very spread out—that have a hard time staying open because they do not make a lot of money. Medicaid helps these rural hospitals, which means that people in rural areas have access to healthcare.
- Some older adults have Medicare and Medicaid. There are some services that Medicare doesn't pay for—like dental, vision, and hearing services—that Medicaid helps pay for.



How is Medicaid helpful? How does it help to keep costs low? How is it flexible for what people need?

- Every state is a little bit different. Different people in each state might have different needs. Medicaid can be flexible, which means it can change when people need it to. The state governments can decide what they need from the Medicaid program. For example, some states might have more rural areas, so they need more help for their rural hospitals. Some other states might need more help supporting children with disabilities. Medicaid allows states to make these decisions based on what they need.
- Public health is the health and well-being of a big group of people, like the health of a state or country. Sometimes there are public health emergencies, like COVID-19. When these emergencies happen, states can use money from Medicaid to help improve public health and help a lot of people at once.



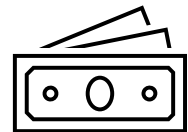
Per capita caps, block grants, and work requirements are not good for people with Medicaid.

Per Capita Caps

This means the government can decide that each person who has Medicaid can only get a certain amount of healthcare and services every year. This would be bad because different people who have Medicaid use it for different things. It is not fair to say everyone gets the same amount.

Block Grants

This means that the federal government can decide that each state can only get a certain amount of money for Medicaid every year. This would not work well because different states need different amounts of money for Medicaid, depending on their different needs. Also, people with disabilities who need LTSS or HCBS could be hurt because their services and supports can cost a lot of money and states might want to save money by cutting those services and supports.



Work Requirements

This means that people have to prove to the federal or state government that they have a job and have worked a certain number of hours every month. Medicaid actually helps people work because it helps them get the services and supports they need to be independent and go to work when they need to. Most people who have Medicaid already work. Also, there are people who cannot work, and they still deserve to get healthcare.

For example: In Georgia, they made work requirements part of the law. This means that people have to report that they worked 80 hours every month. Unfortunately, this did not go very well. Georgia spent millions of dollars just to track information about if people were working or not. This money could have gone to people who need healthcare and other services and supports.

How is Medicaid creative? How does it help people be healthier in the future and save money on healthcare?

- Medicaid has programs that give money to people who have new ideas for how to make healthcare better. These programs include things like places where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live in the community together, mental health services, services to help people get jobs in the community, and technology that helps people in their everyday lives.
- Medicaid pays for important services that help kids stay healthy and succeed in school and beyond. The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services are services that help figure out if a child has a disability, what kind of healthcare children with disabilities need, and how to make sure health problems are caught early so that they do not become serious health issues.
- Medicaid insurance pays for 38 million children and pays for more than 40 percent of all births in the country. This means that because of Medicaid, millions of mothers are able to safely give birth to their children, and their children can have a healthy start to life.

