
Medicaid Access is Crucial for Ohioans with Disabilities

This document explains how changes by the federal government affect you and what to do next.

Words to Know:

Medicaid - a program that helps people get healthcare.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA)- a law passed in 2010 that increased healthcare access and Medicaid eligibility.

Budget - money that is used by the state and federal government to fund programs and services.

Congress - members of the federal government that are responsible for making laws. This includes the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Medicaid Expansion - the federal government gives Ohio money to help fund Medicaid for those who meet income requirements.

Debate - when people talk about and argue different points of view

Background:

Every year the President shares a **budget** for **Congress** to work on for the coming year. The budget bill is a starting point for discussions. The House and Senate will split the bill into different Committees. First, the Committees will hear testimony. Next, legislators will discuss the changes. Finally, legislators will **debate** how the government should spend money. This year, the House passed part of the budget bill that included nearly \$1 trillion in cuts to **Medicaid** and the **Affordable Care Act (ACA)**. Medicaid and the ACA help people with disabilities live in their community, get healthcare, and stay out of institutions. The cuts to these programs will end healthcare for almost 14 million Americans.

Ohio's Medicaid Program:

Ohio's Medicaid program provides important coverage to children, older adults, and people with disabilities. The types of services that Medicaid provides are:

- Mental health services
- Long-term Services and Supports (LTSS)
- Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

This provides opportunities like:

- Helping people with education
- Helping people go to work
- Helping people take part in their communities

These proposed cuts to funding for Medicaid are harsh, unnecessary, and will harm Ohioans.

Ohio Medicaid Overview:

Medicaid is important. Below are the different ways Medicaid is used in Ohio:

- Ohio covers nearly 3 million children, adults, and older adults through the state's Medicaid program.
- Of that 3 million, 700,000 are covered by Medicaid expansion under the ACA
- Federal funding makes up for \$24 billion in Ohio's budget. This is 74% of the state Medicaid program spending.
- Medicaid is the only insurance option for long term services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities.
- Medicaid pays for the care of 63% of nursing home residents and 2 out of 5 non-elderly adults with a disability.
- In Ohio, there are 106,249 individuals using Medicaid waivers to live independently in their homes and communities.

Impacts to Ohioans:

The cuts to funding by Congress will mean that people lose coverage, supports and services. ensure people lose coverage to vital services, supports, and healthcare coverage. These losses could mean:

- A direct loss of coverage to over 400,000 individuals.
- 700,000 individuals covered through **Medicaid expansion** could lose access to their healthcare coverage if the federal match is decreased by more than 1%.
- 39% of direct care workers are covered by the state Medicaid program, so cutting Medicaid will mean this workforce will lose access to healthcare.
- 47% of adults who use Medicaid get behavioral health services, so these individuals would lose access.
- Over 100,000 individuals on HCBS waivers could lose access to needed services.
- Cuts to Medicaid could force states to cut needed home and community-based services including personal care, medical equipment, mental health care, speech and hearing services, and other supports.

Share Your Story:

It is important that Ohio Senators hear how these funding cuts will impact you! Tell them how Medicaid benefits you, why it is important, and what would happen if Medicaid services were cut. You can use the information above to share with the Senators. If you need help knowing how to share your story, read this [sharing your story for policy advocacy](#).

Contact Information:

Call the Congressional Switchboard to help you connect to offices at (202) 224-3121

Contact Senator Jon Husted via [Contact Form](#)

Contact Senator Bernie Moreno via [Contact Form](#)

