



ALLIES FOR CHILDREN

Implications of Medicaid Changes

Agenda

- Who we are & what we do
- Refresher:
 - What is Medicaid?
 - Why does H.R. 1 matter for Pennsylvanians and Medicaid?
- How to Engage and Advocate



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Allies for Children Vision Statement

Each child has the opportunities and assistance necessary to develop into a healthy, educated, and contributing member of the community.

Allies for Children Mission Statement

Allies for Children builds alliances and serves as a bold voice for policy and practice changes that improve the wellbeing of all children in Allegheny County.



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What is Medicaid?

- Comprehensive coverage of health care and long-term care in the United States
- Social safety net for low-income children, working families, immigrants, and older adults and people with disabilities
- Joint federal-state program
- Federal Guidelines, with state flexibility
- Known as Medical Assistance in PA

Most Americans hold favorable views of Medicaid

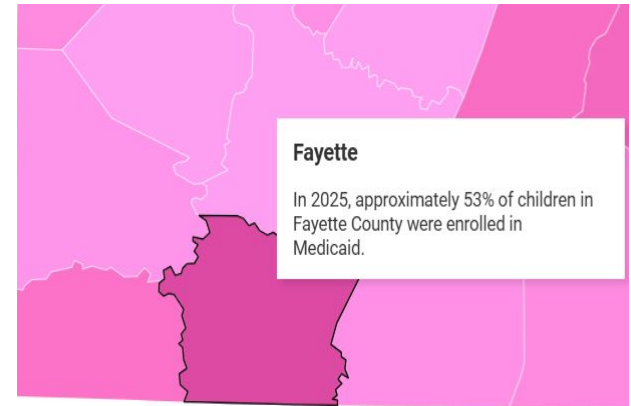


Who uses Medicaid in PA?

- 39% of all children
- 35% of moms giving birth and their newborn babies
- 47% of working-age adults with disabilities
- 64% of people living in nursing homes
- 17% of Medicare beneficiaries
- 18% of adults aged 19-64

Source: [KFF's PA State Report](#)

To learn more about how Medicaid serves your county, see [PA Partnerships for Children's Maps](#)



Key Facts: Children on Medicaid in PA



- 39% of children statewide use Medicaid
- 93% of eligible children are enrolled in Medicaid
- More than half of all young people with severe mental health conditions receive coverage through Medicaid or CHIP
 - A primary challenge for children is finding providers who accept Medicaid coverage, with 57% reporting struggling to find behavioral health care
- Only about 5% of children in PA lack insurance of any kind

Children are not directly impacted by the upcoming changes. However, **children are more likely to be insured when parents are insured.** *Changes to caregiver coverage means eligible kids will lose coverage.*

Who is the Medicaid Expansion Population?

Adults ages 19-64 who are not pregnant and not receiving/eligible for Medicare. This eligibility is otherwise determined through income alone -- and can have incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level

See more on income guidelines and eligibility for other populations [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

| Household Size | Annual Income Limit |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | \$22,025 |
| 2 | \$29,864 |
| 3 | \$37,702 |
| 4 | \$45,540 |
| 5 | \$53,379 |
| 6 | \$61,217 |
| 7 | \$69,056 |
| 8 | \$76,894 |
| Each Addt'l | + \$7,839 |

Overview of HR 1: Key Provisions & Impact related to Medicaid

Nearly \$1 trillion in federal Medicaid cuts over 10 years

- Low-wage workers most affected: Changes for the “Expansion Population”
 - **New work/community engagement requirements** and renewal every 6 months for many adults ages 19–64
- More restrictive immigrant coverage for adults
- Reduced federal support for states and impacts to hospital funding
- Increased **administrative hurdles**
 - Lower enrollment/higher disenrollment due to procedural errors, and system backlog

Medicaid Expansion Population: Exemptions/Exclusions from Work Requirements

- Parent, guardian or caregiver of a child under 14 OR caregiver of a person with a disability
- Pregnant or in one-year Medicaid postpartum coverage period
- “Medically frail” or special medical needs
- Participating in substance use treatment program
- Veterans rated with a total disability
- Individuals already complying with TANF or SNAP work requirement
- Incarcerated currently or within prior 3 months
- Foster youth/former foster youth under age 26
- People on Medicare
- A member of a recognized Native American/Alaskan Native tribe

Expansion Population Impact: Adults with Chronic Conditions

Expansion population categorized as “medically frail” are exempt from work requirements, however, some may struggle to provide the necessary documentation.

Medical Frailty Definition - New Rule more Restrictive/Narrow

- **Many medical conditions will still to prove that they don't have “capacity to comply with community engagement” (can't work)**
 - States can use data when possible to prove this – however, “can't work” will be a challenge to prove via data

States still digesting this, more to come

Actions: Work Requirement Regulation

- **Take part in the federal public comment period.** CMS is collecting comments via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) until **July 31 (CMS-2026-2047)**.
- **Contact your member of Congress.** When Congress enacted HR1, committed to protecting the most vulnerable, including those with disabilities. [Tell Congress: Uphold your promises and protect Medicaid!](#)
- Contact **state officials** and emphasize the difficulty for states, additional administrative burden, and the rushed timeline to redo systems and begin implementation.
- **Engage the media** by using FUSAs [Template press statement](#).
- Have impacted folks **share their story** (use our advocacy survey).

Actions: Tell PA DHS to Mitigate the Impacts

- Use existing **data and systems** (Better for County Assistance Office (CAO) staff and enrollees)
- Ask “**exemption**” questions upfront in COMPASS
- Smooth **transitions to Pennie**
- **Communicate!** Media, Social Media, Text Messages. Give clear and early notice of what’s happening, message for different audiences.
 - Learn from SNAP! – enrollment has dropped
 - Be clear on which provisions just impact “Medicaid Expansion” -- remember lawfully present children are eligible! Be clear on who it doesn’t apply to!
- **Translate** documents and messages

Check out our working group’s full recommendations here:

<https://clsphila.org/public-benefits/protecting-access-medicaid/>



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Actions: What else can we do to Protect Medicaid?

- **Activate Your Organization's Networks**
 - Plan ahead and be thoughtful on messaging
- **Educate** impacted individuals and tell them:
 - Keep contact info updated with DHS! (COMPASS)
 - **Challenge denials** if they think they are eligible – it could be an error! (PHAN)
 - Advocate and share their story!
- Urge Congress to **reject additional cuts to Medicaid**
 - Tell state legislators to engage with Congress on how it will impact state budgets and how the rushed timelines **impact constituents**
- Check out our **Medicaid Toolkit!**



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Allies for Children's Medicaid Toolkit

Our [Medicaid Toolkit](#) was created for those who work with Medicaid participants, and also advocates and other stakeholders, to help them understand it better.

Toolkit sections include:

- Introduction to Medicaid
- School-Based and Behavioral Health
- Public Health Insurance and Changes under HR 1

How can we stay connected?

- Take the Allies for Children's [advocacy survey](#)
 - Help educate policymakers and other stakeholders; invite us to present; connect us with impacted individuals
- Sign-up for [Allies for Children's Newsletter](#) and [Social Media](#)
- Check out [PA DHS Substack](#), where they send updates on changes



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Contact and Next Steps

Questions?

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