

Medicaid Works: Cuts Would Harm Nevadans

Large cuts in federal funding for Nevada's Medicaid program would put health coverage at risk for many Nevadans. Nevada's Medicaid program enables low-income seniors, children, and people with disabilities to get needed health care. And it helps parents and other adults stay healthy, work, and avoid medical debt.

Medicaid Helps Nevada's Families

422,000

Nevadans get quality comprehensive, affordable coverage through Medicaid.

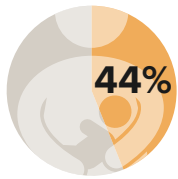
Most are children, seniors, and people with disabilities.



248,000 of Nevada's children get health care through Medicaid, including the primary care they need to stay healthy.

That's **1 of 3 kids** in Nevada who rely on Medicaid for their care. Nevada's kids are particularly vulnerable to cuts to Medicaid.

Medicaid helps **15,700** of Nevada's babies get a healthy start in life each year.



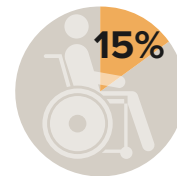
That's **44%** of births in the state.

35,000 of Nevada's seniors get health care through Medicaid, including nursing home care and services that help them live at home.



That's **9%** of seniors in the state.

Medicaid provides **55,000** people with disabilities in Nevada with access to critical care that helps them live independently.

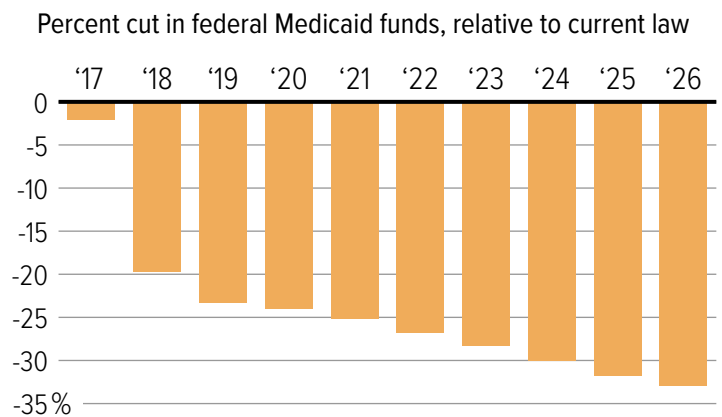


That's **15%** of people with disabilities in the state.

...But Congress Is Considering Shifting Medicaid Costs to States

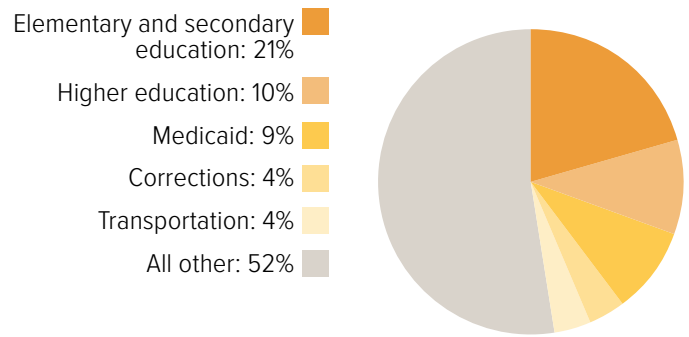
Congress is considering plans to "block grant" or "cap" Medicaid – which would cut federal Medicaid funding by large and growing amounts over time, leaving it well below what states will need to continue serving all beneficiaries. A proposal the House Budget Committee approved in 2016, for example, would cut \$1 trillion over ten years, with the cut growing to 33 percent by the tenth year, based on CBPP analysis (see graph).

These cuts would achieve federal savings by shifting Medicaid costs to Nevada and other states. The loss of federal support could make it harder for Nevada to respond to public health crises such as the current opioid epidemic.



Given that states must balance their budgets, cutting Medicaid would force Nevada legislators either to make deep cuts to other state priorities like education or public safety, or to decide which people to cut from Medicaid and which health services to stop covering. Given the magnitude of the cuts, there would be no way to protect the populations helped by Medicaid – including seniors, people with disabilities, and families with kids.

Distribution of Nevada's State Budget, 2015



Cutting Federal Medicaid Funds Would Have a Big Impact on Nevada's Budget

The federal government covers nearly **65%** of Nevada's Medicaid costs. That's a great deal for Nevada, especially when costs are higher than anticipated, such as when an effective but costly new medical treatment becomes available.

Nevada received **\$2.2 billion** in federal Medicaid funds in 2015, which made up **59%** of Nevada's federal funds.

Cuts Could Undermine Nevada's Innovative Programs

Community Health

The Community Health Alliance in Reno has developed a model, the Center for Complex Care, to coordinate the physical health, mental health, and substance use care for Medicaid beneficiaries. Teams of primary care and behavioral health providers help patients navigate the health system and get needed care.



Warning

Alliance head Chuck Duarte explains: "We would probably have not done the Center for Complex Care if we had not been in a state with expanded Medicaid. We would have had to be much more cautious with so many more uninsured patients."

State Innovation

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation is investing in Nevada to help the state design better ways to provide care and increase efficiency. This grant will help Nevada improve access to primary and behavioral health care services and pay Medicaid and Medicare providers in a way that rewards high-value care.



Warning

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation was established by the Affordable Care Act and could be repealed with the rest of the law.

Deeply cutting federal Medicaid funding through a block grant or cap would prevent Nevada from making the upfront investment in innovative programs like this one.