

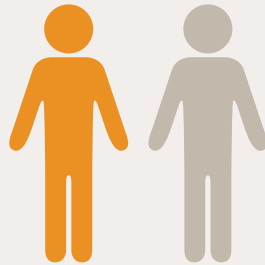
Medicaid Works: Cuts Would Harm West Virginians

West Virginia has a lot to lose if Congress “block grants” or “caps” funding for its Medicaid program. West Virginia’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 West Virginia’s Families

437,000

West Virginians get comprehensive, affordable health coverage through Medicaid. Most are children, seniors, and people with disabilities.



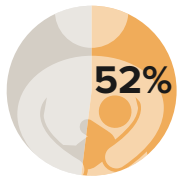
208,000 of West Virginia’s children get health care through Medicaid, including the primary care they need to stay healthy.

That’s **1 of 2 kids** in West Virginia who rely on Medicaid for their care. West Virginia’s kids are particularly vulnerable to cuts to Medicaid.

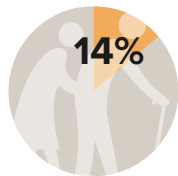
Medicaid helps **10,600** of West Virginia’s babies get a healthy start in life each year.

44,000 of West Virginia’s seniors get health care through Medicaid, including nursing home care and services that help them live at home.

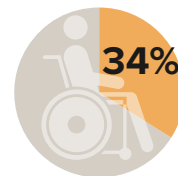
Medicaid provides **124,000** people with disabilities in West Virginia with access to critical care that helps them live independently.



That’s **52%** of births in the state.



That’s **14%** of seniors in the state.

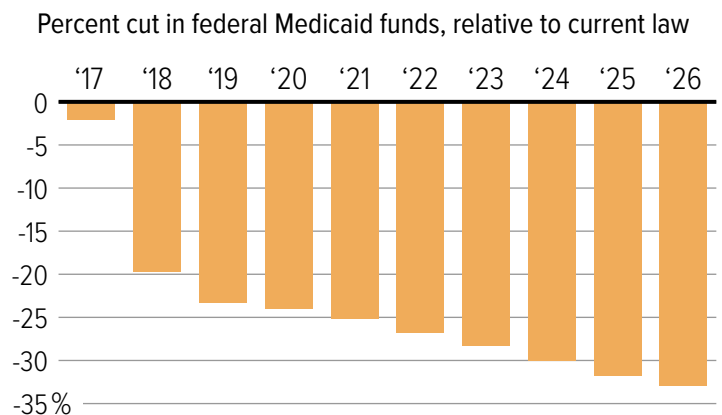


That’s **34%** of people with disabilities in the state.

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

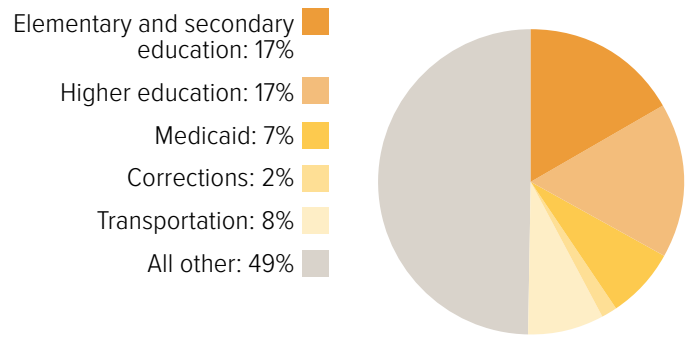
Congress is considering plans to “block grant” or “cap” Medicaid – which would cut federal Medicaid funding by large and growing amounts over time, leaving it well below what states will need to continue serving all beneficiaries. A proposal the House Budget Committee approved in 2016, for example, would 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 West Virginia and other states. The loss of federal support could make it harder for West Virginia to respond to public health crises such as the current opioid epidemic.



Given that states must balance their budgets, cutting Medicaid would force West Virginia 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 West Virginia's State Budget, 2015



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

The federal government covers nearly **72%** of West Virginia's Medicaid costs. That's a great deal for West Virginia, especially when costs are higher than anticipated, such as when an effective but costly new medical treatment becomes available.

West Virginia received **\$2.6 billion** in federal Medicaid funds in 2015, which made up **79%** of West Virginia's federal funds.

Cuts Could Undermine West Virginia's Innovative Programs

Substance Use Treatment

West Virginia has the highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the country, more than double the national average. To expand Medicaid enrollees' access to substance abuse treatment, West Virginia has proposed a new program to help coordinate substance use treatment and physical health care for those who need it.



Warning

If Congress makes deep cuts to Medicaid, West Virginia will have to decide how to balance it's budget by cutting people from its Medicaid program, limiting access to needed services, and slashing payments to providers. West Virginia likely would not be able to afford to expand access to substance use disorder care.

West Virginia Health Homes

West Virginia also established "health homes" in 2015 to coordinate care for Medicaid beneficiaries who have bipolar disorder and are at risk for hepatitis. Authorized by the Affordable Care Act, health homes help West Virginians get the medical care and social services they need to improve their health.



Warning

Repealing the Affordable Care Act would eliminate West Virginia's federal health home payments.

Deeply cutting federal Medicaid funding would prevent West Virginia from making the upfront investment in care coordination needed to improve members' health and reduce long-term costs.