

PROTECT OUR CARE

By The Numbers: How Medicaid Strengthens South Carolina

Medicaid is not only a lifeline for millions of South Carolinians, it strengthens our communities in countless ways. These are reasons why the program is overwhelmingly popular: [74 percent](#) of Americans support Medicaid.

SOUTH CAROLINIANS DEPEND ON MEDICAID

- **1,009,409 South Carolinians Are Covered Through Medicaid.** Over 1,009,409 South Carolinians [have medical coverage](#) through Medicaid - most of them children, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- **In South Carolina, Parents Up To 67 Percent Of The Federal Poverty Line May Enroll In Medicaid.** By not fully expanding Medicaid, South Carolina has restricted its Medicaid program such that only Parents earning up to 67 percent [of the federal poverty line](#) are eligible to enroll in Medicaid. If South Carolina expanded its program, 582,000 [more adults](#) could gain coverage through Medicaid.

MEDICAID IS A LIFELINE FOR CHILDREN, SENIORS, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

42 Percent of South Carolina's Children Rely on Medicaid. 42 percent of South Carolina [children rely](#) on Medicaid for coverage. Medicaid pays almost \$4 billion annually in school-based health services. Schools depend on these funds connect students with vital health resources — [68 percent](#) of school superintendents said that they used these funds to keep nurses, counselors, and speech therapists on staff.

Medicaid Supports 60 Percent Of South Carolinians In Nursing Homes. 60 percent of South Carolinians living in nursing homes [have coverage](#) through Medicaid.

Medicaid Covers 19 Percent of South Carolina's Seniors and People with Disabilities. In South Carolina, 19 percent of seniors and people with disabilities [have health coverage through Medicaid](#), including for nursing home care. Nationally, approximately [one in four people](#) on Medicaid are seniors (9 percent) or people with disabilities (15 percent). However, their care represents about [two-thirds](#) of all Medicaid spending. In other words, funding cuts to Medicaid will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable.

MEDICAID HELPS SOUTH CAROLINIANS ACCESS TREATMENT FOR OPIOID ADDICTION

Medicaid Covers [One In Four](#) Americans With An Opioid Use Disorder. Medicaid pays for 12 percent of South Carolina's [buprenorphine](#) expenditure, a medication used to treat opioid addiction.

REPUBLICANS' WAR ON THE ACA AND MEDICAID JEOPARDIZES COVERAGE FOR MORE THAN 1 MILLION SOUTH CAROLINIANS

1,009,409 South Carolinians With Traditional Medicaid Coverage, Including Seniors, People With Disabilities, And Children, Are At Risk. The Graham-Cassidy bill that President Trump revived in his FY19 budget proposal would turn traditional Medicaid into a per capita cap, meaning the 1,009,409 South Carolinians who are [enrolled](#) on Medicaid would have their care jeopardized. Medicaid disproportionately helps children, seniors in nursing home care and people with disabilities. A study by [Avalere](#) found that Graham-Cassidy would cut funding for people with disabilities by 15 percent and 31 percent for children by 2036.

636,832 South Carolina Children's Care Is At Risk. 636,832 South Carolina kids are currently [enrolled](#) in Medicaid and CHIP, and their care could be at risk because of funding cuts in Graham-Cassidy.