

# PROTECT OUR CARE

## By The Numbers: How Medicaid Strengthens Illinois

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

### ILLINOISANS DEPEND ON MEDICAID

- **3,042,715 Illinoisans Are Covered Through Medicaid.** 3,042,715 Illinoisans [have medical coverage](#) through Medicaid - most of them children, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- **In Illinois, Adults Up To 138 Percent Of The Federal Poverty Line May Enroll In Medicaid.** After expanding Medicaid, Illinois residents earning up to 138 percent [of the federal poverty line](#) are now eligible to enroll in Medicaid.
- **690,400 Illinoisans Have Gained Coverage Through Medicaid Expansion.** Thanks to Medicaid expansion, 690,400 Illinois residents [are enrolled](#) in the program.

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

**36 Percent of Illinois's Children Rely on Medicaid.** 36 percent of Illinois [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 57 Percent Of Illinoisans In Nursing Homes.** 57 percent of Illinoisans living in nursing homes [have coverage](#) through Medicaid.

**Medicaid Covers 18 Percent of Illinois's Seniors and People with Disabilities.** In Illinois, 18 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 ILLINOISANS ACCESS TREATMENT FOR OPIOID ADDICTION

**Medicaid Covers [One In Four](#) Americans With An Opioid Use Disorder.** Medicaid pays for 15 percent of Illinois's [buprenorphine](#) expenditure, a medication used to treat opioid addiction.

### REPUBLICANS' WAR ON THE ACA AND MEDICAID JEOPARDIZES COVERAGE FOR 3 MILLION ILLINOISANS

**690,400 Illinoisans Enrolled Through Medicaid Expansion Now At Risk.** The Graham-Cassidy bill would eliminate [Medicaid expansion](#), which has helped 690,400 Illinoisans receive quality, affordable coverage, and put part of its funding into inadequate block grants. The bill would further punish states that expanded Medicaid by [redistributing](#) funds to states that did not expand Medicaid.

**3,042,715 Illinoisans 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 3,042,715 Illinoisans 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.

**1,423,889 Illinois Children's Care Is At Risk.** 1,423,889 Illinois kids are currently [enrolled](#) in Medicaid and CHIP, and their care could be at risk because of funding cuts in Graham-Cassidy.