

PROTECT OUR CARE

By The Numbers: How Medicaid Strengthens Tennessee

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

TENNESSEANS DEPEND ON MEDICAID

- **1,539,743 Tennesseans Are Covered Through Medicaid.** Over 1,539,743 Tennesseans [have medical coverage](#) through Medicaid - most of them children, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- **In Tennessee, Parents Up To 98 Percent Of The Federal Poverty Line May Enroll In Medicaid.** By not fully expanding Medicaid, Tennessee has restricted its Medicaid program such that only Parents earning up to 98 percent [of the federal poverty line](#) are eligible to enroll in Medicaid. If Tennessee expanded its program, 683,000 [more adults](#) could gain coverage through Medicaid.

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

43 Percent of Tennessee's Children Rely on Medicaid. 43 percent of Tennessee [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 Tennesseans In Nursing Homes. 60 percent of Tennesseans living in nursing homes [have coverage](#) through Medicaid.

Medicaid Covers 23 Percent of Tennessee's Seniors and People with Disabilities. In Tennessee, 23 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 TENNESSEANS ACCESS TREATMENT FOR OPIOID ADDICTION

Medicaid Covers [One In Four](#) Americans With An Opioid Use Disorder. Medicaid pays for 10 percent of Tennessee's [buprenorphine](#) expenditure, a medication used to treat opioid addiction.

REPUBLICANS' WAR ON THE ACA AND MEDICAID JEOPARDIZES COVERAGE FOR 1.5 MILLION TENNESSEANS

1,539,743 Tennesseans 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 1,539,743 Tennesseans 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.

Tennessee Children's Care Is At Risk. [43 percent](#) of Tennessee kids have coverage through Medicaid or CHIP, and their care could be at risk because of funding cuts in Graham-Cassidy.