



February 2025 *Medicaid Talking Points*

Medicaid Talking Points

ASK: Please keep the needs of community health centers, their patients, and communities in mind as you consider changes to the Medicaid program. We stand ready to help ensure Medicaid is transparent and to work with you to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse.

- **HEALTH CENTERS AND MEDICAID:** Medicaid is the largest revenue source for community health centers, community governed, non-profit primary and preventive care centers that funnel all revenue back into patient care.¹
 - Care at community health centers is a remarkably effective and efficient use of Medicaid dollars.
 - The Congressional Budget Office found that care provided at community health centers lowers federal spending for the Medicaid and Medicare populations they serve and lowers spending in emergency departments, inpatient hospital settings, and other outpatient services.²
- **BOOST THE ECONOMY:** Medicaid has been shown to boost the economy and job creation. For example, Medicaid expansion lessens the burden of uncompensated care at hospitals and helps keep hospitals from closing, saving jobs and local economies.³
- **MAKE AMERICA HEALTHY AGAIN:** As we look to Make America Healthy Again, Medicaid is one of the best tools we have. Medicaid improves health outcomes, prevents premature deaths, and reduces medical debt and the likelihood of catastrophic medical costs.⁴
- **LOWER COSTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES:** Medicaid is the safety net for many working families who might otherwise be forced to forgo care entirely and then end up in

¹ <https://www.nachc.org/topic/medicaid/>

² Congressional Budget Office. (2024). *CBO's cost estimates explained, CBO describes its Cost-Estimating Process, Glossary.* <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-02/s2840.pdf>

³ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama-health-forum/fullarticle/2768596>

⁴ Laura Harker and Breanna Sharer, "Medicaid Expansion: Frequently Asked Questions," CBPP, updated June 14, 2024, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-expansion-frequently-asked-questions-0>; Madeline Guth and Meghana Ammula, "Building on the Evidence Base: Studies on the Effects of Medicaid Expansion, February 2020 to March 2021," KFF, May 6, 2021, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/report/building-on-the-evidence-base-studies-on-the-effects-of-medicaid-expansion-february-2020-to-march-2021/>; Madeline Guth, Rachel Garfield, and Robin Rudowitz, "The Effects of Medicaid Expansion under the ACA: Studies from January 2014 to January 2020," KFF, March 17, 2020, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/report/the-effects-of-medicaid-expansion-under-the-aca-updated-findings-from-a-literature-review/>; Owen Thompson, "The long-term health impacts of Medicaid and CHIP," *Journal of Health Economics*, January 2017, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhealeco.2016.12.003>; Michel Boudreaux, Ezra Golberstein, and Donna McAlpine, "The long-term impacts of Medicaid exposure in early childhood: Evidence from the program's origin," *Journal of Health Economics*, January 2016, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhealeco.2015.11.001>; Sarah Miller and Laura Wherry, "The Long-Term Effects of Early Life Medicaid Coverage," *Journal of Human Resources*, July 2019, <https://doi.org/10.3368/jhr.54.3.0816.8173R1>.



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the emergency room, the costliest form of care. Without Medicaid, many working families are forced to choose between costly medications or necessities like groceries for their family.

- **PROTECT RURAL AMERICA:** Adults and children in small towns and rural areas are more likely than those living in metro areas to rely on Medicaid/CHIP for their health insurance.
 - Medicaid expansion in particular improved access to behavioral health and preventive care at community health centers in [rural areas](#).
 - Without Medicaid, health care and the economy in rural areas would suffer.