

# Advocating for Medicaid

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Medicaid is more than a program—  
it's freedom, dignity,  
and opportunity  
for people  
with disabilities.



The time is **NOW** to  
speak out to  
**Protect Medicaid!**



# What is Medicaid?

A federal-state partnership that provides healthcare coverage and disability services to people who are:

Low to  
middle  
income



Children



Disabled



Elderly



And  
more...



# Medicaid in Illinois



3,438,447 people in Illinois covered by Medicaid



222,693 people with disabilities receive home and community based services



16,589 people with disabilities already on waiting lists for services



3 out of 8 children

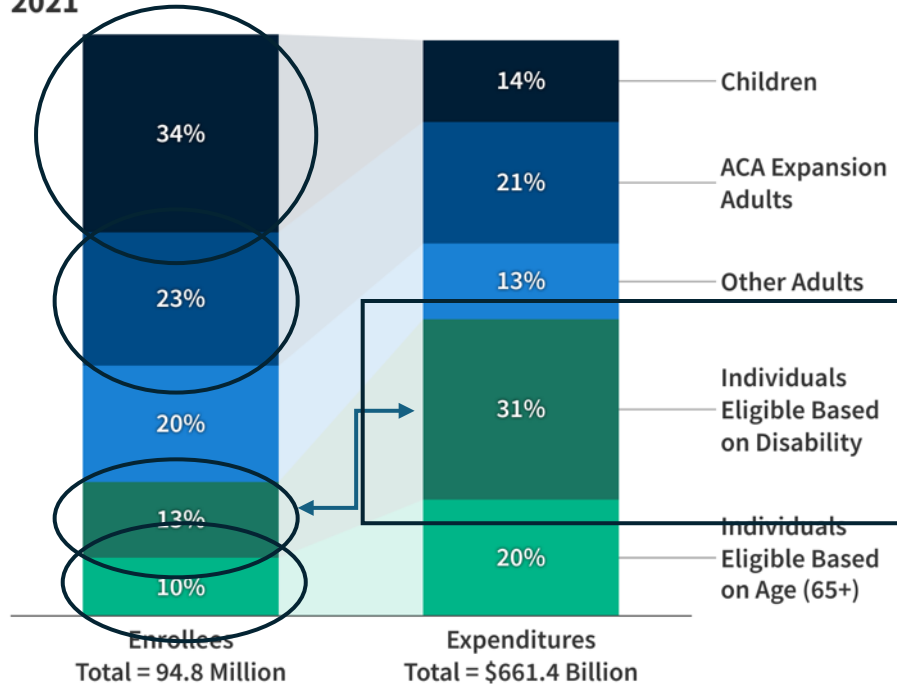


1 out of 3 adults with disabilities

# How is Medicaid Paid For?

Figure 3

**People Eligible for Medicaid Based on Disability or Age (65+) Accounted for 1 in 4 Enrollees but Over Half of All Spending in 2021**



Note: Includes full and partial benefit enrollees enrolled in at least one month of Medicaid during 2021. Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: KFF analysis of the T-MSIS Research Identifiable Files, CY 2021

KFF



Illinois received \$21 Billion for Medicaid from the federal government in 2023



The federal government pays about half (51%) of most Medicaid costs in Illinois



The federal government pays even more for certain populations, such as 90% for those in the ACA Adult category

# Medicaid is the Foundation of Our Disability System

## Health Services



- Doctor visits
- Therapies
- Medical supplies and equipment
- Hospital care
- Medications

## Waiver Services



- Day Programs
- Community group homes (CILA)
- Employment supports
- Assistive technology
- Home and vehicle modifications
- Behavioral support

## Direct Home Supports



- Personal assistance
- Homemaker
- In-home nursing
- Personal support

## Other



- Early Intervention services
- School-based therapies and nursing

# Key Talking Points

Medicaid is the  
foundation of  
our disability  
system

3.4 Million  
residents rely on  
Medicaid in  
Illinois

These cuts  
would force  
Illinois to cut  
services

## Share YOUR Story

# How Are Cuts Made to Medicaid? Budget Reconciliation Process

1. House and Senate pass budget resolutions that say how much to fund each "bucket"



2. House and Senate work out exactly what to fund and what to cut

← where we are now!



3. House and Senate work to resolve differences



4. Budget reconciliation bills are passed, signed by president, and put in place

# Why Budget Reconciliation?

Quickly change the budget with only 51 votes in the Senate

- Bypasses normal (= REALLY SLOW) rules
- Cannot be filibustered
- Easier to pass legislation related to taxes and spending
- Only certain budget items can be addressed, including Medicaid

Goal: pass by Memorial Day



# How Big is the Cut?

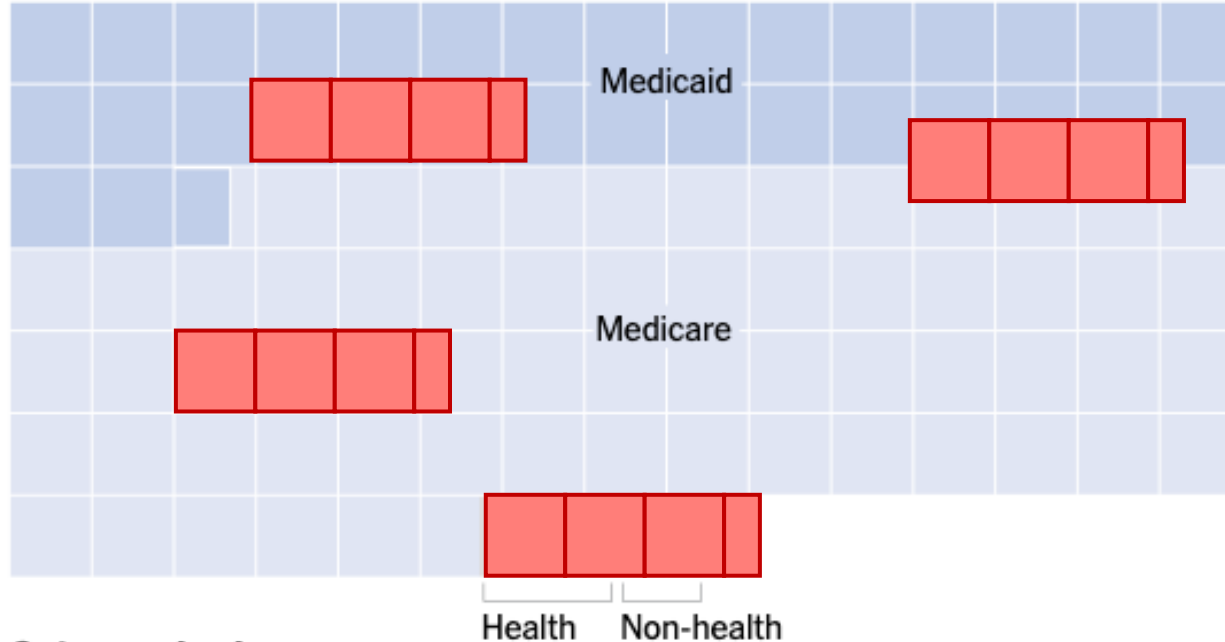
## House of Representatives Cuts to Energy and Commerce Committee

- \$880 billion (at minimum) cut to Medicaid/Medicare
- Backed by Trump and will likely be the starting point for both chambers

# Which Bucket Includes Medicaid?

Spending overseen by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

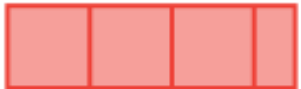
\$25 trillion



The math doesn't math unless there are cuts to Medicaid or Medicare

Cuts required

\$880 billion



Each square represents \$250 billion in 10-year gross mandatory spending. • By The New York Times

# Effective Meeting Strategies

## DO

- Be concise and respectful of their time
- Clearly state what you're asking for
- Share your personal story and the 'why'
- Leave behind a one-page fact sheet

## DON'T

- Read directly from materials (if possible)
- Be confrontational or threatening
- Overwhelm with too many issues or statistics
- Be discouraged to meet with staff instead of legislators

# Why Do We “Need” Cuts?

To pay for \$4.5 trillion dollars in tax cuts



Corporate greed



More money for the ultrawealthy

“Fraud, Waste, Abuse”



Fraud and abuse is already minimal and detected



Cuts would have no direct effect on fraud, waste, and abuse

# Menu of Potential Cuts

Per capita caps or block grants

Work requirements

Lowering the federal matching percentage (the amount of money the federal government pays states)

Lowering the federal matching percentage for the Medicaid expansion group (ACA Medicaid)

Other possible changes, including provider taxes

Where did we get this information?

- Republican legislative proposal – [Original](#) or [More User-friendly NYT Summary](#)
- [Paragon Institute article](#) (conservative think tank)
- [Project 2025](#)

# Potential Cut: Per Capita Caps or Block Grants

## A set amount paid to states

- Per capita cap – a fixed amount paid per person enrolled
- Block grant – an overall fixed amount for all of Medicaid

## Starts with a CUT

- Always includes a baseline cut in total dollars

## The Cut deepens

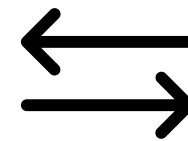
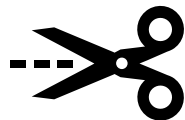
- Each year, the amount received becomes less and less compared to the amount needed

## Cannot respond to changes

- pandemics
- natural disasters
- aging populations

## Hits people with high costs the hardest

- People with disabilities
- People who are elderly



# Potential Cut: Work Requirements

Requiring all adults, usually 18-65, to work at least part time to continue receiving Medicaid

- Usually are exemptions for those in school, those with young children, and those who are disabled or sick
- **No exemption typically for caregivers of people with disabilities**
- Exemptions require extensive paperwork and documentation

# Work Requirements Continued

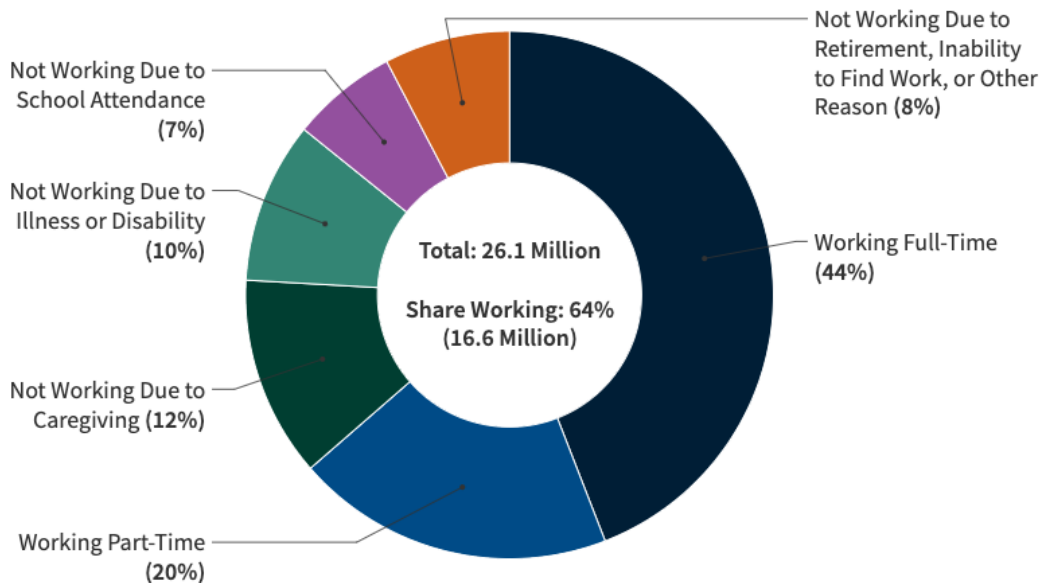
92% of people in Medicaid are working or exempt

It costs states MORE money to impose Work Requirements

Figure 1

## Work Status & Barriers to Work Among Medicaid Adults, 2023

*Includes Medicaid covered adults (age 19-64) who do not receive benefits from Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and are not also covered by Medicare.*



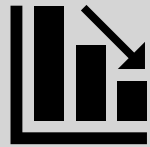
- People lose Medicaid due to not completing paperwork correctly
- Most of the savings from work requirements comes from people with disabilities and the elderly losing Medicaid



# Potential Cut: Reducing Federal Matching Percentages

The federal government pays at least 50% of Medicaid costs for most services

- Currently 51% in Illinois
- Reducing this percentage means significantly less money for Illinois



For the ACA population, the federal government currently pays 90%

- Illinois has a trigger law opting out of Medicaid expansion if this rate is cut
- Cuts mean dramatically less money for adults on Medicaid in Illinois – estimated \$41 billion over 10 years
- 840,000 people could lose Medicaid – 28% reduction

# What Do Cuts Mean for Illinois?

## **WAY LESS MONEY!!!**



Governor Pritzker estimate:  
\$8 billion dollars less per year

# How Can Illinois Make Up the Difference?

Make cuts to  
optional Medicaid  
services

Reduce  
reimbursement  
rates to providers

Reduce who is  
allowed to get  
Medicaid

Raise more  
revenue through  
taxes, fees, and  
other programs

Make cuts to  
other Illinois  
programs

# Optional Medicaid Services That Can Be Cut

## Optional Adult Medicaid services

- Home nursing care
- Dental care
- Physical, occupational, speech therapy
- Prescription drugs
- Dentures, prosthetics, and eyeglasses
- Hospice
- ICF/DD and Mental Health Institutions
- Personal Care and related programs
- Case management

## Medicaid (Disability) Waivers

- Waivers could be completely eliminated
- Number of spots reduced = longer waiting lists
- Reduced Services
- Lowered Cost Maximums

# Populations that Could be Cut/Eliminated



People with disabilities currently on a Waiver



Children (0-19) who are lower/middle income



Those in AABD and HBWD



ACA Medicaid group eliminated or redefined



Eliminate or redefine other optional groups

# Messaging that Works



Medicaid serves priority populations, especially people with disabilities



Medicaid cuts will terminate healthcare coverage for millions



Medicaid will profoundly affect already cash-strapped states



Medicaid cuts don't address the fundamental problems with healthcare, which include corporate greed and price gouging

# After Your Meeting

## Follow Up

- Send a thank you email within 24 hours
- Include any additional information
- Summarize key points from your conversation
- Repeat the ask

## Stay Engaged

- Monitor their votes
- Share updates with The Arc and your other advocacy networks
- Follow their social media accounts
- Send periodic updates to the legislators

# Contacting Your Federal Legislators!

## Call or email (repeatedly)

- Senator Dick Durbin: (202) 224-2152, <https://www.durbin.senate.gov/>
- Senator Tammy Duckworth: (202) 224-2854, <https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/>
- Your FEDERAL Representative: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>
- White House Switchboard: 202-224-3121

## Show Up!

- Most current office info is on individual websites