



Medicaid Is a Lifeline for South Carolinians

Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that provides health insurance and access to long-term care to more than 1,141,154 people in South Carolina, including:

Around 30% of South Carolinians with disabilities under the age of 65	Around 44% of South Carolina children	More than 80,966 adults receiving long-term supports and services
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What Medicaid Means for South Carolinians

- **Health:** Medicaid coverage unlocks access to health care and improves health.
- **Financial Security:** Medicaid protects families from high health care costs.
- **Dignity and Community:** Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) enable 67,973 disabled South Carolinians to live, work, and participate in their communities.
- **Federal Investment:** The federal government spent \$6.7 billion on Medicaid in South Carolina in 2023—providing around 75.4% of the total cost of the program in the state.
- **Jobs:** Medicaid creates thousands of valuable local jobs in the health care sector and increases employment for people with disabilities.
- **Stronger Rural Hospitals:** Medicaid funding enables rural hospitals and other critical health care infrastructure to stay open and provide care to rural residents.

67% of South Carolina voters oppose cuts to Medicaid funding.

Impact to South Carolina's State Economy

- Cuts to federal Medicaid funding would shift costs onto South Carolinians, squeezing already-tight state, local, and family budgets.
- The state would be forced to make up for the loss in federal funds.
- The risk of cuts to HCBS is especially great because the state spends more on HCBS than any other optional benefit. South Carolina already limits HCBS due to constraints on available funding. 33,892 South Carolinians are currently on a waitlist to receive Medicaid-funded HCBS.
- Without adequate funding for HCBS, thousands of South Carolinians with disabilities would lose their independence and be forced into nursing homes or state-run institutions to survive.

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