

Budget Proposals Could Slash Healthcare for Millions of Floridians

FEDERAL MEDICAID CUTS WOULD:

- 1** Do nothing to lower health care costs or improve quality and access to care.
- 2** Devastate state budgets, putting other priorities like K-12 funding at risk.
- 3** Undermine financial stability of the health system, especially rural hospitals and community clinics.
- 4** Jeopardize health coverage for millions of children and families, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Florida faces a healthcare crisis as Congress rushes to pass budget proposals that will require devastating cuts to Medicaid. As a result, access to healthcare is in jeopardy for nearly four million vulnerable Floridians who depend on the program.

The Current State-Federal Partnership

Right now, Medicaid is a lifeline for 2.1 million Florida children, more than 700,000 seniors and 350,000 disabled adults. It also covers the care of more than half of Floridians residing in nursing homes and 54% of all births in the state. These aren't just statistics – they represent real Floridians who need medical care to survive and thrive.

The current system works because the Federal government consistently covers 57% of the costs, regardless of fluctuations in the costs of the program. This partnership ensures healthcare remains available even during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, when many more people need help.

What are the proposed changes, and how would they work?

The proposed changes would destroy the current safety net. Instead of guaranteed funding that adjusts to actual needs, Florida could receive fixed "block grants" or "per capita caps" – the funding would stay fixed, even as costs rose because people needed more help. The current proposal would slash \$880 billion from Medicaid nationwide over the next decade.

Why do these changes matter, and how will they affect Floridians?

Medicaid is the largest source of federal funding because it supports much of the state's healthcare system. With these drastic cuts, Florida leaders would face impossible choices: cut people from healthcare coverage, reduce critical benefits, or drain money from other essential services like education or public safety.

My family receives healthcare through Medicaid. How will this affect us?

The state might start charging fees to low-income families for healthcare services, creating additional barriers to care.

Members of Congress are also considering imposing work requirements on those who are covered by Medicaid. This approach would save money because it would force so many people to lose coverage, not because they're not working, but because of all the red tape. Rather than ensuring that able-bodied working adults are employed, this requirement will just create more bureaucratic hurdles and mass coverage loss.

Perhaps most concerning, these changes would eliminate the guaranteed minimum level of care that Medicaid recipients currently receive. As a result, fewer safeguards would be in place to ensure that vulnerable residents get the care they need. For example, children could lose special protections that could prevent developmental issues from going undetected until they become more serious (and expensive).

I Want to Take Action. What Can I Do?

This isn't just a budget issue – it's about whether we'll continue to provide healthcare for Florida's children, seniors, pregnant women, and disabled residents. Our elected officials need to hear from us. Don't delay! Call your member of Congress today and say you oppose all Medicaid cuts: 866-426-2631.



Source List

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6. Elizabeth Hinton and Robin Rudowitz, “5 Key Facts About Medicaid Work Requirements”, KFF, (February 18, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/5-key-facts-about-medicaid-work-requirements/>
7. Wayne Turner and Emma Parker-Newton, "Protect Medicaid Funding Issue #5: Children’s Health", National Health Law Program, (August 27, 2024), <https://healthlaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/05-PMFChildrensHealth-FINAL-08.27.2024.pdf>; see also "Medicaid Matters: To People, Our Economy and the Health Care System", Families USA, (January 14, 2025), <https://familiesusa.org/resources/medicaid-matters-to-people-our-economy-and-the-health-care-system/>