

Medicaid 101

For far too many, the cost of health care is out of reach, forcing them to delay necessary care, avoid seeking care at all, or face overwhelming medical debt when they're left with no other option. **Medicaid allows children, seniors, people with disabilities, pregnant people, and adults with low incomes to get the health care they need.** Medicaid is a critical - and [consistently popular](#) - health insurance program that plays a significant role in local and state economies by keeping rural hospitals open, supporting job growth, and ultimately saving taxpayer dollars.



Medicaid At-A-Glance

36.8 million

kids are covered by Medicaid, providing them with screenings and treatments during key developmental years

60%

of seniors in nursing homes depend on Medicaid to cover their nursing home bills

41%

of births are covered by Medicaid

18%

of adults and **47%** of children in rural counties are on Medicaid

**MORE THAN
1 in 3**

adults under age 65 enrolled in Medicaid have a disability

Chelsea's Story:

Medicaid helps kids like Chelsea thrive and stay healthy. Chelsea, like other kids her age, loves to sing, play sports, and spend time with family and friends. It's critical that Chelsea's behavioral, sleep and medical disorders are being addressed for her to enjoy these activities.

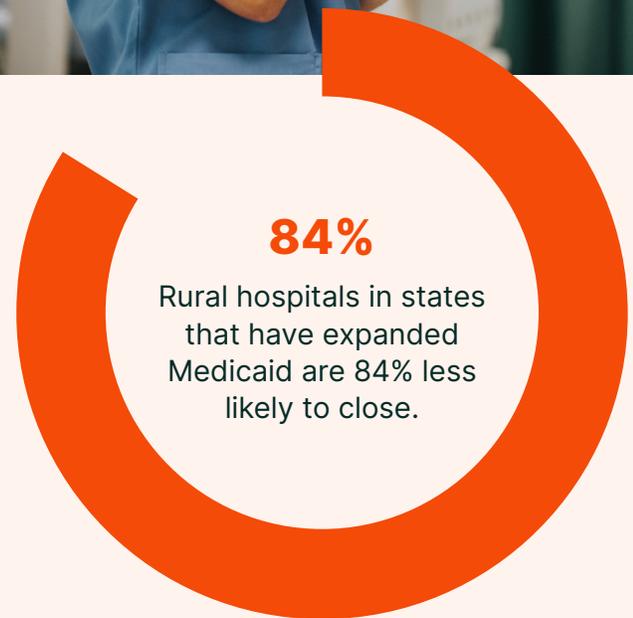
Thanks to Medicaid coverage, Chelsea is able to get the medications and therapeutic services she needs on a daily basis so she can enjoy her favorite activities - instead of worrying about her health.



Medicaid and Our State Budget

In addition to providing lifechanging – and lifesaving – health coverage for millions, Medicaid also contributes to growing and thriving state economies. Medicaid funds help keep hospital doors open in our rural communities. Rural hospitals in states that have expanded Medicaid are 84% less likely to close than in non-expansion states. This is critical to ensuring rural communities have access to lifesaving care and good-paying jobs.

Medicaid is a good deal for states. Federal funds for Medicaid expansion states have added hundreds of thousands of new jobs to state economies, all while making their communities healthier and more prosperous. Medicaid also strengthens small businesses by giving employees access to affordable coverage, relieving the burden of high health care costs on new and small business owners. This also prevents low-wage workers from having to leave their jobs due to illness or injury because they don't have access to affordable health insurance.



Without Medicaid, state residents wouldn't be able to manage, treat, or prevent health issues. Medicaid is vital to keeping communities strong and putting more money in families' wallets.