

Medicaid Per-Capita Caps



What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is health insurance for children, seniors, people with disabilities, pregnant people, and adults with low incomes. It allows them to get the health care they need without going into medical debt. It's a state and federal partnership, with the federal government providing funding so that state residents get the health care they need.



What is a per-capita cap?

Per-capita caps establish a limit on how much health care each person enrolled in Medicaid will get. They also set a cap on federal Medicaid spending that falls short of state costs over time. Currently, the federal government pays a fixed percentage of each states' Medicaid costs. This is recalculated each year to keep our state budgets stable. As we saw during COVID-19, enrollment and uptake can fluctuate unexpectedly and change how much is spent on Medicaid each year. Per-capita caps would act as a cut to Medicaid and take health care away from us, our families, and our community members.

Eboni's Story:

For people like Eboni, Medicaid is truly a lifeline. Medicaid coverage allowed her to get cancer treatment when she needed it and eased her mind about the burden of medical debt - on top of a cancer diagnosis. A per-capita cap that forced states to cut coverage would have meant that Eboni couldn't get the care she needed - or that she would face hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical debt.

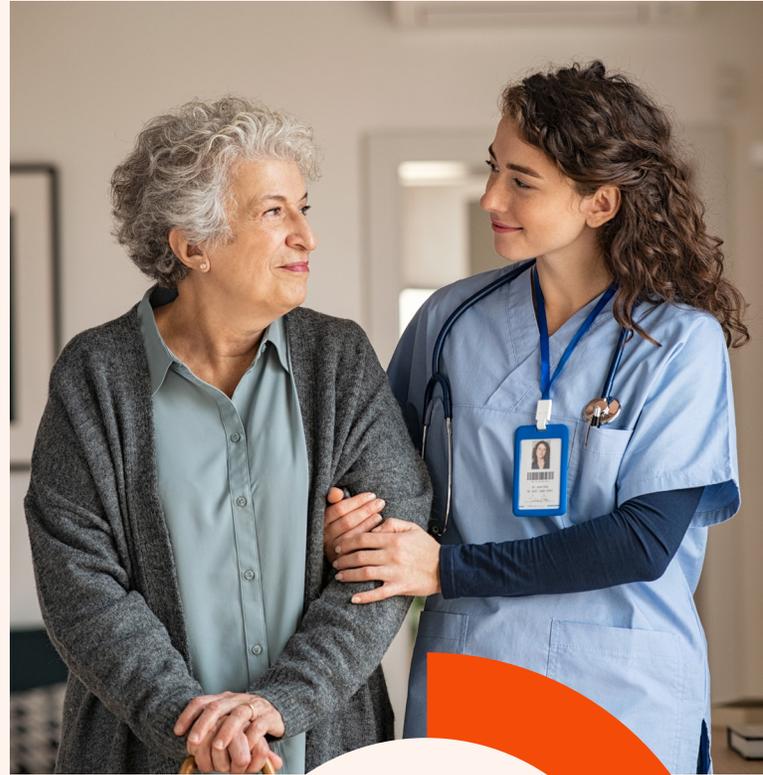


What would per-capita caps mean for our state?

Per-capita caps are designed to hurt our state. They lower the amount of federal funding we get to run our Medicaid program over time, so we are forced to take away people's care by cutting Medicaid benefits, restricting people's eligibility, or reducing how much doctors get paid to treat people with health coverage through Medicaid.

Millions of children, seniors, disabled people, pregnant people and babies, and low-income adults will lose their health coverage, delay care, and skip medications - and we'll all pay the price. Fewer insured people means more uncompensated care, leading to higher costs across the whole health system.

Per-capita caps would also mean cuts for long term home and nursing care – impacting 60% of individuals in nursing homes. People are already struggling with the high costs of caring for loved ones and our aging population. Without Medicaid support, this kind of care is not affordable for most families.



60%

of people in nursing homes would be impacted by cuts for long term home and nursing care.

Per-capita cap proposals are just a complicated way to take away people's health care and leave states without the funding they need to sustain critical programs and keep our communities strong.