

## Medicaid at Risk Part II: Navigating the Path Forward Together

On August 1, the Community Health Commission of Missouri (CHCM), in partnership with the <u>Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis</u>, hosted the second part of our "Medicaid at Risk" town hall series. Building on our <u>Part I conversation</u>, the panel brought together experts, stakeholders, and community members to discuss the impact of the newly passed federal budget reconciliation bill on Missouri's Medicaid program.

The bill's provisions could reduce federal Medicaid spending by \$326 billion over ten years, potentially resulting in 100,000–170,000 Missourians losing coverage.

## **Rey Takeaways:**

- Medicaid is more than health insurance. It is a lifeline for children, seniors, and people with disabilities and an important part of Missouri's economy.
- Cuts would reduce billions in federal funding to Missouri, creating ripple effects across the economy.
- Rural hospitals, nursing homes, and health providers could face closure, increasing travel times and reducing access to care.
- Missouri's aged and disabled population is particularly at risk—50% of Medicaid spending supports these residents, and two-thirds of nursing home residents rely on Medicaid.
- Work requirements add administrative barriers that could cause eligible people to lose coverage, especially shift workers, those with chronic conditions, and caregivers.

"If you don't invest in people's health, you end up with far more costly and catastrophic outcomes."

— Amy Blouin



