

Fast Facts about Medicaid

Medicaid is designed to provide health coverage for our nation's most vulnerable individuals and families. It covers millions of children, parents, pregnant women, people with disabilities and seniors. Medicaid also covers millions of people who are employed, but do not have health coverage through their jobs and do not earn enough to purchase coverage on their own. Many Medicaid beneficiaries have special health care concerns and the program generally provides a benefit package that addresses their needs. The federal government provides a portion of the funding for Medicaid and sets guidelines for the program. State governments also provide funding, and Medicaid programs vary from state to state.

Medicaid across the U.S. today

- Medicaid is the single largest source of health coverage in the U.S.
- Across the U.S., more than 72 million people have some type of Medicaid coverage.
- Medicaid often fills the coverage gap for a short time to help people get on their feet.
- Medicaid covers more mental health services than any other insurer.

Who qualifies for Medicaid

- Children ages 18 and under
- Pregnant women
- People with disabilities
- People age 65 or above with low incomes
- Low-income working adults

Who depends on Medicaid

- **Veterans:** Nearly one in 10 veterans have Medicaid coverage.
- **Frail seniors:** Medicaid supports 65 percent of seniors who rely on long-term care.
- **Kids with disabilities:** Medicaid supports special services for millions of children with a disability.
- **Foster kids:** Most foster children depend on Medicaid for their health care.
- **Moms and babies:** 50 percent of all births are covered by Medicaid.
- **People struggling with addiction:** Medicaid provides treatment for three out of 10 people with opioid addiction.
- **Low-income working people:** Six in 10 adults with Medicaid coverage are working (not disabled and under age 65)

Learn more about Medicaid in your state

Get a [Medicaid state fact sheet](#) from the Kaiser Family Foundation.