



PROTECT
Women's and Children's
Health Care



West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
Consumer Voices for Health Care



Mother's Day: Medicaid Matters for Moms and All Women in West Virginia

Anna Jarvis, Mother's Day creator and West Virginia native, was deeply involved in the health of her family and her own mother's primary caregiver. Anna Jarvis established Mother's Day to honor her mother, and to honor all women who daily advance the health and well-being of their families, neighbors, and communities.

Health insurance coverage is key to women's access to health care, overall health, and economic stability. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), millions of women across the country who did not have health insurance before are now able to get affordable, quality coverage through Medicaid.

In West Virginia, the Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion implemented in 2014 gave tens of thousands more women the peace of mind knowing that they had insurance coverage and would be able to see a doctor for check-ups and health care.

West Virginia Women with Medicaid

- More than 150,000 West Virginia women ages 19-64 rely on Medicaid for quality, comprehensive, and affordable health insurance coverage.
- 27% of West Virginia women 19-64 have Medicaid coverage.
- Approximately 64,000 women gained Medicaid coverage in the first year of the ACA Medicaid expansion – a 72% increase in Medicaid coverage for women.

Working West Virginia Women Rely on Medicaid

- Approximately 47,000 West Virginians with Medicaid coverage are working women who do not have health insurance benefits through their jobs.
- Women on Medicaid who do not work are women with disabilities, retired older women, women caring for children or family at home, or women who are looking and cannot find employment.

Medicaid Provides Critical Services to West Virginia Women

- Medicaid pays for approximately 60% of all births in West Virginia.
- Medicaid pays for family planning and reproductive health services for low-income women.
- Medicaid pays for breast and cervical cancer screening, diagnostic testing, and treatment for low-income and uninsured women.
- Medicaid finances about half (51%) of all long-term care spending in the country, which is critical for many frail elderly West Virginia women and the women who are their caregivers. In West Virginia, about 37% of total Medicaid spending is for long term care; of that spending, 48% is for home and community-based services.

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Medicaid for Moms (and Dads) Helps Children

- Medicaid provides peace of mind to Moms (and Dads) that their children will be able to see a doctor when they are sick and receive the medical care they need:
- 42% of West Virginia's children are covered by Medicaid and CHIP.
- More than 290,000 West Virginia children relied on Medicaid and CHIP in FY 2016.
- Children make up 40% of the state's total Medicaid/CHIP population.
- Health insurance is a family affair: research shows that the enrollment of eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP increases as their parents gain Medicaid coverage
- Children with uninsured parents are less likely to receive checkups, preventive care, and necessary health care services.
- Positive parent-child interactions are key to children's healthy growth and mental development; when Mom has Medicaid she can get help with issues like maternal depression and substance use disorders so she can be a better parent.
- Medicaid coverage for parents provides financial security that keeps a family living above the poverty level, reduces medical bills and medical bankruptcy, and provides room in the family budget for other necessities and reduces family stress.

Time for West Virginians to Stand Up for Medicaid

These gains and benefits of Medicaid coverage for West Virginia Moms – and all women and all parents – cannot be taken for granted.

At the federal level, Congress spent 2017 debating repeal of the ACA's Medicaid expansion, and considering financing changes to the Medicaid program that would have taken away an estimated \$4 billion dollars in federal Medicaid funds available to West Virginia over ten years (2019-2028). While we stopped these proposals in 2017, they resurface every year in Republican leadership's proposed plans and budgets.

West Virginia cannot shoulder the burden of these large federal Medicaid cuts. Now is the time for West Virginians to stand up for Medicaid and say no to changes that will threaten the gains West Virginia women (and men) have made in obtaining health coverage that helps them stay healthy, take care of their families, and remain economically secure.

You Can Make a Difference: Share Your Story

How can one person make a difference and help protect Medicaid? With 70 percent of West Virginians – moms, dads, children, seniors, people with disabilities – relying on Medicaid for health care, there are stories on every block and in every family that demonstrate how Medicaid is critical to West Virginians.

Share your story by going to www.wvtogetherformedicaid.com. We will contact you to see if you would be willing to share your story with legislators and other decision-makers, or with the media. You control how your story is used. Every story matters – every story has the power to educate, to change a mind, and to move a heart.