

Medicaid: Vital for West Virginia



Medicaid benefits West Virginia in many ways:

600,000-plus West Virginians Rely on Medicaid = One-Third of All West Virginians

- 40% of WV kids in 2016
- 60% of births
- 39,000 seniors
- 130,000 blind and disabled
- 75% of nursing home & long-term care
- 45% of drug replacement therapy for opioid addiction

Medicaid = Healthy West Virginians

Medicaid coverage allows early detection & treatment of health problems before they grow severe & costly to treat – and that leads to higher worker productivity & less absenteeism.

- A 2017 estimate for U.S. national annual treatment cost-savings from early cancer diagnosis is \$26B/yr
<https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/1709/1709.01484.pdf>
- U.S. MEPS data show that workers with health insurance miss 77% fewer work days
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/09275371/40/supp/C?sdc=1>

Medicaid = Financial Stability for West Virginian Families

Medicaid associated with significant reduction in people's unpaid bills of all types, amount of debt sent to collection agencies, & credit card debt.

- 10 percentage point increase in Medicaid eligibility reduces personal bankruptcies by 8 percent
- Medicaid covered families 40% less likely to borrow money or skip paying bills to cover medical expenses
<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1108222>

Medicaid = Lifeline for Rural Providers

Rural hospitals' financial status improved in Medicaid expansion states (states like West Virginia that opted to raise Medicaid eligibility to cover more adults with higher federal matching dollars per the Affordable Care Act)

- Medicaid revenue as a share of total hospital revenue rose 33%
- Operating margins increased by 4 percentage points (difference between total revenues & operating costs)
<https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/affordable>

Medicaid = Good Medicine for West Virginia Economy

Every \$1 that West Virginia spends on Medicaid covered health care is matched by \$2.9 from the federal government. The total annual Medicaid budget is \$4.4 billion but \$3.4 billion is new federal dollars pulled into the state generating significant jobs & business activity. WVU Bureau of Business & Economic Research used macro-economic modeling to quantify positive impact of Medicaid on WV economy:

- \$10 m Medicaid state spending = \$29 m in new federal dollars =
 - ✓ \$49 million new overall annual economic output
 - ✓ 520 new jobs
 - ✓ \$1.8 million in additional state tax revenue

West Virginia Medicaid Pledge

I publicly pledge to protect and defend Medicaid against cuts to necessary funding, policies that force West Virginians off Medicaid, and efforts to block grant Medicaid or otherwise restrict federal Medicaid dollars.

For More Information Contact West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

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