

PROTECT OUR CARE

By The Numbers: How Medicaid Strengthens Alaska

Medicaid is not only a lifeline for millions of Alaskans, it strengthens our communities in countless ways. These are reasons why the program is overwhelmingly popular: [74 percent](#) of Americans support Medicaid.

ALASKANS DEPEND ON MEDICAID

- **200,185 Alaskans Are Covered Through Medicaid.** 200,185 Alaskans [have medical coverage](#) through Medicaid - most of them children, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- **In Alaska, Adults Up To 138 Percent Of The Federal Poverty Line May Enroll In Medicaid.** After expanding Medicaid, Alaska residents earning up to 138 percent [of the federal poverty line](#) are now eligible to enroll in Medicaid.
- **22,900 Alaskans Have Gained Coverage Through Medicaid Expansion.** Thanks to Medicaid expansion, 22,900 Alaska residents [are enrolled](#) in the program.

MEDICAID IS A LIFELINE FOR CHILDREN, SENIORS, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

32 Percent of Alaska's Children Rely on Medicaid. 32 percent of Alaska [children rely](#) on Medicaid for coverage. Medicaid pays almost \$4 billion annually in school-based health services. Schools depend on these funds connect students with vital health resources — [68 percent](#) of school superintendents said that they used these funds to keep nurses, counselors, and speech therapists on staff.

Medicaid Supports 79 Percent Of Alaskans In Nursing Homes. 79 percent of Alaskans living in nursing homes [have coverage](#) through Medicaid.

Medicaid Covers 18 Percent of Alaska's Seniors and People with Disabilities. In Alaska, 18 percent of seniors and people with disabilities [have health coverage through Medicaid](#), including for nursing home care. Nationally, approximately [one in four people](#) on Medicaid are seniors (9 percent) or people with disabilities (15 percent). However, their care represents about [two-thirds](#) of all Medicaid spending. In other words, funding cuts to Medicaid will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable.

MEDICAID HELPS ALASKANS ACCESS TREATMENT FOR OPIOID ADDICTION

Medicaid Covers [One In Four](#) Americans With An Opioid Use Disorder. Medicaid pays for 34 percent of Alaska's [buprenorphine](#) expenditure, a medication used to treat opioid addiction.

REPUBLICANS' WAR ON THE ACA AND MEDICAID JEOPARDIZES COVERAGE FOR 200,000 ALASKANS

22,900 Alaskans Enrolled Through Medicaid Expansion Now At Risk. The Graham-Cassidy bill would eliminate [Medicaid expansion](#), which has helped 22,900 Alaskans receive quality, affordable coverage, and put part of its funding into inadequate block grants. The bill would further punish states that expanded Medicaid by [redistributing](#) funds to states that did not expand Medicaid.

200,185 Alaskans With Traditional Medicaid Coverage, Including Seniors, People With Disabilities, And Children, Are At Risk. The Graham-Cassidy bill that President Trump revived in his FY19 budget proposal would turn traditional Medicaid into a per capita cap, meaning the 200,185 Alaskans who are [enrolled](#) on Medicaid would have their care jeopardized. Medicaid disproportionately helps children, seniors in nursing home care and people with disabilities. A study by [Avalere](#) found that Graham-Cassidy would cut funding for people with disabilities by 15 percent and 31 percent for children by 2036.

92,260 Alaska Children's Care Is At Risk. 92,260 Alaska kids are currently [enrolled](#) in Medicaid and CHIP, and their care could be at risk because of funding cuts in Graham-Cassidy.