

# PROTECT OUR CARE

## By The Numbers: How Medicaid Strengthens Arkansas

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

### ARKANSANS DEPEND ON MEDICAID

- **902,279 Arkansans Are Covered Through Medicaid.** 902,279 Arkansans [have medical coverage](#) through Medicaid - most of them children, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- **In Arkansas, Adults Up To 138 Percent Of The Federal Poverty Line May Enroll In Medicaid.** After expanding Medicaid, Arkansas residents earning up to 138 percent [of the federal poverty line](#) are now eligible to enroll in Medicaid.
- **321,000 Arkansans Have Gained Coverage Through Medicaid Expansion.** Thanks to Medicaid expansion, 321,000 Arkansas residents [are enrolled](#) in the program.

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

**45 Percent of Arkansas's Children Rely on Medicaid.** 45 percent of Arkansas [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 66 Percent Of Arkansans In Nursing Homes.** 66 percent of Arkansans living in nursing homes [have coverage](#) through Medicaid.

**Medicaid Covers 25 Percent of Arkansas's Seniors and People with Disabilities.** In Arkansas, 25 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 ARKANSANS ACCESS TREATMENT FOR OPIOID ADDICTION

**Medicaid Covers [One In Four](#) Americans With An Opioid Use Disorder.** Medicaid pays for 8 percent of Arkansas's [buprenorphine](#) expenditure, a medication used to treat opioid addiction.

### REPUBLICANS' WAR ON THE ACA AND MEDICAID JEOPARDIZES COVERAGE FOR 900,000 ARKANSANS

**321,000 Arkansans Enrolled Through Medicaid Expansion Now At Risk.** The Graham-Cassidy bill would eliminate [Medicaid expansion](#), which has helped 321,000 Arkansans 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.

**902,279 Arkansans 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 902,279 Arkansans 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.

**429,176 Arkansas Children's Care Is At Risk.** 429,176 Arkansas kids are currently [enrolled](#) in Medicaid and CHIP, and their care could be at risk because of funding cuts in Graham-Cassidy.