

PROTECT OUR CARE

By The Numbers: How Medicaid Strengthens Rhode Island

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

RHODE ISLANDERS DEPEND ON MEDICAID

- **312,705 Rhode Islanders Are Covered Through Medicaid.** 312,705 Rhode Islanders [have medical coverage](#) through Medicaid - most of them children, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- **In Rhode Island, Adults Up To 138 Percent Of The Federal Poverty Line May Enroll In Medicaid.** After expanding Medicaid, Rhode Island residents earning up to 138 percent [of the federal poverty line](#) are now eligible to enroll in Medicaid.
- **61,500 Rhode Islanders Have Gained Coverage Through Medicaid Expansion.** Thanks to Medicaid expansion, 61,500 Rhode Island residents [are enrolled](#) in the program.

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

37 Percent of Rhode Island's Children Rely on Medicaid. 37 percent of Rhode Island [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 63 Percent Of Rhode Islanders In Nursing Homes. 63 percent of Rhode Islanders living in nursing homes [have coverage](#) through Medicaid.

Medicaid Covers 20 Percent of Rhode Island's Seniors and People with Disabilities. In Rhode Island, 20 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 RHODE ISLANDERS ACCESS TREATMENT FOR OPIOID ADDICTION

Medicaid Covers [One In Four](#) Americans With An Opioid Use Disorder. Medicaid pays for 50 percent of Rhode Island's [buprenorphine](#) expenditure, a medication used to treat opioid addiction.

REPUBLICANS' WAR ON THE ACA AND MEDICAID JEOPARDIZES COVERAGE FOR 310,000 RHODE ISLANDERS

61,500 Rhode Islanders Enrolled Through Medicaid Expansion Now At Risk. The Graham-Cassidy bill would eliminate [Medicaid expansion](#), which has helped 61,500 Rhode Islanders 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.

312,705 Rhode Islanders 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 312,705 Rhode Islanders 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.

123,160 Rhode Island Children's Care Is At Risk. 123,160 Rhode Island kids are currently [enrolled](#) in Medicaid and CHIP, and their care could be at risk because of funding cuts in Graham-Cassidy.