

Protecting Medicaid in Montana

Helping Montanans get the care they need.

Montana Medicaid is a joint federal-state program that provides low- or no-cost healthcare coverage to low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults and people with disabilities. In 2015, Medicaid in Montana was broadened to cover non-disabled, low-income adults, most of whom are working. This expanded access has cut the number of uninsured Montanans in half, helped stabilize and support rural healthcare providers and allowed more low-income, working Montanans to get the care they need for mental health and substance use disorders.

The bottom line: The current Montana Medicaid program is the right thing for our state and needs to be continued as it is today.

A recent survey asked adults across the state whether they wanted lawmakers to keep the current program as it is or let it expire, meaning fewer people in the state would be able to receive coverage through Medicaid. The responses were clear:

84%

of Montanans said they want to keep the current program as it is today.

Montana's current Medicaid program is what's best for Montana.

The current Montana Medicaid program provides critical benefits to the state. The current program:



Ensures our low-income working community members have health insurance and access to the care they need.



Reduces the burden on hospital emergency services and improve the overall health of our communities.



Provides vital funds that support rural and critical access hospitals, ensuring they are able to provide accessible, local care.



Supports the entire ecosystem of healthcare, from dentists and local pharmacies to independent doctors, treatment centers, social workers, physical therapists and more.

This impact extends far beyond hospital walls and supports services throughout the entire community.

Changing the current program would have far-reaching **consequences.**

80,000

people would lose their health insurance coverage.

As these people lose access to primary and preventive care covered by Medicaid, they must turn to expensive emergency care. These added costs will be passed on to all Montanans, likely in the form of higher commercial insurance premiums and/or higher state taxes to cover the cost of more expensive care that could be avoided with the current Medicaid program.



People in need would lose **access to substance abuse and mental healthcare** during a time in which we're seeing a crisis on both of these fronts.

Montana Medicaid in Carbon County

- **Supporting healthy, productive workers for Carbon County businesses**
 - **Provides coverage to 627 adults** (ages 19-64) in Carbon County (as of 10/24), approx. 5% of county pop.
 - From October 2023-September 2024, expansion supported:
 - **Preventative services for 496 people** in Carbon County;
 - **Mental health services for 218 people** in Carbon County; and
 - **Colon cancer screenings for 31 people** in Carbon County; possibly averting **9 cases of colon cancer**
- **Major source of economic activity in Carbon County**
 - **21 jobs** created/supported
 - **\$1 million** in labor income
 - **\$2.8 million** in total output
- **Supports key industries in Carbon County**
 - Top industries, by employment: **1) Accommodation & Food Services, 2) Educational Services, 3) Retail Trade, and 4) Public Administration**
 - Across Montana, Medicaid covers more than 30% of people working as maids/housekeepers, child care workers, and food service workers; more than 20% of personal care aides, waiters and waitresses, cashiers, retail salespeople and laborers