



## Medicaid Is a Lifeline for Washingtonians

Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that provides health insurance and access to long-term care to more than 1,852,000 people in Washington, including:

Around <b>37% of Washingtonians with disabilities</b> under the age of 65	Around <b>40% of Washingtonian children</b>	More than <b>136,000 adults</b> receiving long-term supports and services
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### What Medicaid Means for Washingtonians

- **Health:** Medicaid coverage unlocks access to health care and improves health.
- **Financial Security:** Medicaid protects families from high health care costs.
- **Dignity and Community:** Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) enable 119,000+ disabled Washingtonians to live, work, and participate in their communities.
- **Federal Investment:** The federal government spent \$29 billion on Medicaid in Washington in 2023—providing around 70% of the total cost of the program in the state.
- **Jobs:** Medicaid creates thousands of valuable local jobs in the health care sector and increases employment for people with disabilities.
- **Stronger Rural Hospitals:** Medicaid funding enables rural hospitals and other critical health care infrastructure to stay open and provide care to rural residents.

***70% of Washington voters oppose cuts to Medicaid funding.***

### Impact to Washington's State Economy

- Cuts to federal Medicaid funding would shift costs onto Washingtonians, squeezing already-tight state, local, and family budgets.
- The state would be forced to make up for the loss in federal funds.
- The risk of cuts to HCBS is especially great because the state spends more on HCBS than any other optional benefit. Washington already limits HCBS due to constraints on available funding. 11,010 Washingtonians are currently on a waitlist to receive Medicaid-funded HCBS.
- Without adequate funding for HCBS, thousands of Washingtonians with disabilities would lose their independence and be forced into nursing homes or state-run institutions to survive.

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