



## WHAT IS MEDICAID?

Medicaid is a health care program in the United States. It helps people pay for their health care and long-term services and supports.

People can use Medicaid to pay for doctor’s visits, medicine, disability services, and more. The people who can use it are people with disabilities, people who don’t make a lot of money, kids, pregnant people, and some older adults.

Every state has its own Medicaid program. The U.S. government makes basic rules about Medicaid that the states have to follow. States can make additional rules about who gets Medicaid.

## WHY IS MEDICAID IMPORTANT TO MARYLANDERS?

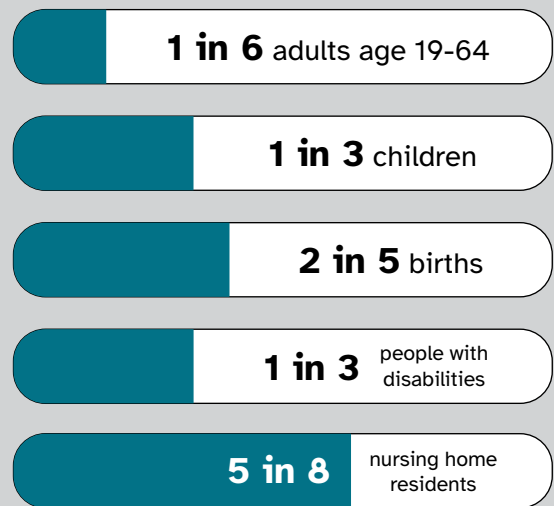
Medicaid has different names in each state. In Maryland, it is called the **Maryland Medicaid Program**.

Medicaid helps **1,543,000** Marylanders. This includes older adults, children, and people with disabilities.

Medicaid helps Marylanders get critical care not covered by any other program.

- Most long-term care and supports, like nursing homes and direct support care, are paid for by Medicaid.
- Medicaid is a lifeline for children with disabilities. It covers nearly half of all children with specific health care needs.

### In Maryland, Medicaid covers...



Source: *KFF*

### In Maryland, Medicaid covers...

**1,543,000**  
total Marylanders

**567,000**  
children under age 19

**839,100**  
adults age 19-64

Source: *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*

Contact the Council for more information:

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## PROPOSED CHANGES TO MEDICAID

There are some people in the government who want to make changes to Medicaid. Below are some of the changes being discussed.



**1. Make the U.S. government pay less for Medicaid.** For the U.S. government to pay less for Medicaid, it would need to change how it gives states money to fund this program. You can learn more about the ways they would pay less here. As a result, states would get less money to pay for Medicaid services.



**2. Make people on Medicaid pay more money for services.** Medicaid is supposed to give health care to people who need help paying for it. Because of this, Medicaid has rules that limit how much money the people in the program have to pay. This proposed change would make these rules go away. People using Medicaid would have to spend more of their own money. If these people can't pay, they might get kicked off Medicaid. Then they would have no health care at all.



**3. Create a new rule that if an adult gets Medicaid, they need to have a job.** 2 out of 3 people on Medicaid work. For people who don't work, it is because they can't work due to a disability, are caring for a family member, or are attending school. People who can't work still need health care.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MARYLAND?

The changes proposed would hurt the state budget. **Researchers estimated for Maryland, these changes would mean \$1.694 billion less in the state budget.** This would be on top of existing budget challenges facing Maryland.

To make up for either getting less money, Maryland would need to raise more money for Medicaid, or make Medicaid cost less.

If Maryland wanted to raise more money for Medicaid, it would need to raise taxes. Most people don't like when taxes go up so this is not usually how people want to fix the issue.

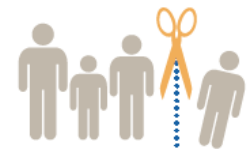
If Maryland wanted to make Medicaid cost less, it would need to find a way to save money. One way Maryland could make Medicaid cost less is by taking Medicaid away from some people (cut enrollment). Another way Maryland could save money is by not paying for as many Medicaid services or not paying as much for services (cut benefits or cut payments to providers).

### To cut Medicare costs, states can...

#### Cut Benefits



#### Cut Enrollment



#### Cut Payments to Providers

