



Welcome to Today's OPEN Take 30:

Medicaid Cuts and the Impact on Oral Health — What to Expect

Thank you for joining early! Today's Take 30 will begin shortly.

June 25, 2025



Welcome!

OPEN Take 30: Medicaid Cuts and the Impact on Oral Health — What to Expect



Bailey Reavis
Families USA

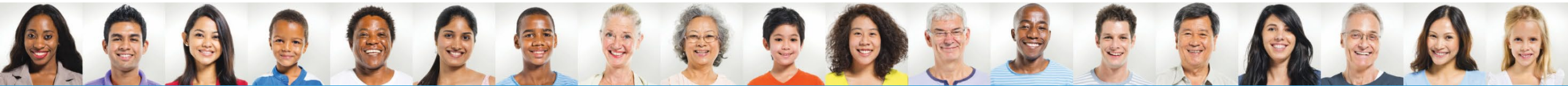


Gary Harbison
Missouri Oral Health
Coalition



Adult Medicaid Oral Health Access At Risk

June 25, 2025



Dedicated to creating a nation where the best health and health care are equally accessible and affordable to all

Families USA – More Than 40 Years on the Frontlines of Consumer Health Advocacy

Families USA, a leading national voice for health care consumers, is dedicated to the achievement of high-quality, affordable health care and improved health for all. We advance our mission through public policy analysis, advocacy, and collaboration with partners to promote a patient-and community centered health system.



HEALTH CARE VALUE



HEALTH EQUITY



COVERAGE



CONSUMER VOICE

The Importance of Medicaid

MEDICAID PROVIDES HEALTH INSURANCE TO:



Ensuring coverage and financial security to rural Americans where residents are less likely to have health insurance through their job.



Giving kids what they need to stay healthy: check-ups, behavioral health care and more. Medicaid fills in the gaps left by private insurance for kids with chronic health conditions such as congenital heart defects and asthma.⁸



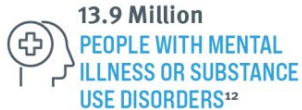
Supporting low-income seniors (including those with Medicare coverage) with medical equipment, transportation to medical appointments and other services that can help seniors live comfortably in their homes.



Reducing out-of-pocket costs for seniors who rely on skilled nursing care and rehabilitation.



Providing coverage to the 2 in 3 non-elderly Medicaid enrollees who work. Many low-wage jobs do not offer health insurance, leaving millions of working Americans without access to affordable health insurance. Medicaid enrollees that do not work most often have a disability, are caring for family members, or are attending school.



Covering treatment and community services and supports, and offering critical funding to states and communities, to address our nation's behavioral health crisis.



Building on Social Security financial assistance, which does not cover health care costs, by providing essential services and support for people with disabilities to work, attend school and live in their communities.



Giving access to affordable care for veterans with complex health needs, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and chronic pain.¹⁵ While veterans can go to Veterans Health Administration facilities, they need insurance to pay for their care. Medicaid keeps low-income veterans from being uninsured.

Critical source of support to roughly 80 million people – 1 in 5 living in the US.

Backbone of health system financing for clinics, rural hospitals, behavioral health, long term care, childbirths.

Largest source of federal funding to states.

Promotes economic stability – keeps people in school, working, out of medical debt.

What's Really Going on in DC?

GOP budget menu outlines sweeping spending cuts

The document provides a look at what Republicans are considering as they assemble a package of tax cuts and other priorities for early 2025.

BY: BENJAMIN GUGGENHEIM | 01/17/2025 10:30 AM EST

Equalize FMAP for ACA Expansion Population \$561 billion in 10-year savings VIABILITY: HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW

- The Obamacare Medicaid expansion gives preferential treatment to able-bodied adults over children or individuals with disabilities with a set 90 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) federal reimbursement for the Obamacare adult expansion population. This policy would end Obamacare's preferential treatment for adults over children by equalizing federal reimbursement of expansion adults to the normal FMAP formula.

Establish Medicaid Work Requirements \$100 billion in 10-year savings VIABILITY: HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW

- The policy would restore the dignity of work by implementing work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents to qualify for Medicaid coverage, as included in the House-passed Limit, Save, Grow Act (H.R. 2811). Certain populations would be exempted, such as pregnant women, primary caregivers of dependents, individuals with disabilities or health-related barriers to employment, and full-time students.

Limit Medicaid Provider Taxes \$175 billion in 10-year savings VIABILITY: HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW

- States increase the amount of federal Medicaid funding they receive by levying taxes on providers and then increasing their reimbursement rates. This policy would lower the Medicaid provider tax safe harbor from 6% under current law to 4% from 2026 to 2027 and 3% in 2028 and after.

Repeal Biden Administration Finalized Medicaid/CHIP ACCESS Rule \$121 billion in 10-year savings VIABILITY: HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW

- In May 2024, the Biden Administration finalized a rule focused primarily on expanding access to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) in both fee for service (FFS) Medicaid and in managed care plans, including by instituting worker certification requirements.

Repeal Biden

Vulnerable House Republicans warn leaders against cutting Obamacare

The group of centrists also said the party needed to be careful about deep cuts to social safety net programs.

MEREDITH LEE HILL
01/23/2025, 3:26PM ET

House committee delays key vote amid disagreements over Medicaid

THE HILL

MYCHAEL SCHNELL

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 6:32 PM EDT

Hawley's change of heart reflects evolving politics of Medicaid

Missouri conservative has emerged as a top defender of Medicaid during budget process

Instructions for Federal Financial Assistance Program Analysis in Support of M

All Federal agencies that provide Federal financial assistance are required by February 7, 2025, to complete the attached spreadsheet and submit it to OMB. The information requested must be provided for any program that has funding or activities planned through March 15. Agencies are encouraged to complete this task for all their programs as soon as possible. OMB will be following up with additional deadlines for subsequent periods.

Using the spreadsheet provided, Federal agencies should

Trump vows to 'love and cherish' Medicaid — while Republicans plot cuts for savings

The president's position on the health safety-net program could put him at odds with Republicans in Congress.

BEN LEONARD
01/31/2025, 6:19PM ET

Senate Republicans pass budget blueprint after all-night session

Democrats warned the blueprint could lead to cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

By Allison Pecorin and Lauren Peller

SENATE BUDGET BLUEPRINT
LIMIT HIKE
PERMANENT TAX CUTS
FOR NEW TAX POLICIES

In the News

The red lines begin: A dozen House Republicans say no to big Medicaid cuts

Washington, April 16, 2025

Tags: [Health Care](#)

State of Play (As of Today!)

Budget Reconciliation is a fast-track tool which allows Senate to pass legislation with simple majority – bypassing typical 60 vote threshold to overcome a filibuster.

House-Passed Bill

- House passed bill cut Medicaid by \$858.9 billion
 - Force states to change Medicaid financing structures
 - Freezes provider taxes at current level, restrict state-directed payments
 - Added bureaucratic burdens in enrollment paperwork
 - Work reporting requirements, reapplication every 6 months
 - Create cost-sharing for adults in expansion population
 - Reduce FMAP for states that use state dollars to cover immigrant family's health coverage

Senate Proposals

- Senate Finance Committee proposed even deeper cuts to Medicaid
 - Harsher cuts to provider taxes
 - Requires Medicaid expansion states to reduce from 6% to 3.5% over time
 - Work requirements apply to broader community
 - More expansive provisions banning access to Medicaid for families granted asylum, refugees, and other at-risk immigrant communities

Policy changes still ongoing

Goal to pass by July 4th

- **Senate looking to pass this week**

- Majority Leader Thune's goal is to put final bill on the floor today or tomorrow which would tee up a final vote over the weekend
- Senate will stay in session until bill is passed

- **House will have to pass Senate version**

- Speaker Johnson also saying House will stay in session through 4th of July Recess if need be
- Many House members have issues with proposed Senate changes
 - State and Local Tax concerns
 - Medicaid and provider tax concerns

What Does This Mean For Oral Health?

Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits are not mandatory coverage and are at risk of being made less comprehensive or fully cut as states lose Medicaid funding

- Provider tax changes leave state budgets especially vulnerable
- Eligibility changes mean millions will lose coverage who are actually eligible for Medicaid – losing access to what could be their only affordable oral health coverage

Strategies to Defend Medicaid

- ✓ Educate Members of Congress and the public on the importance of Medicaid, **put a human face on faceless budget numbers!**
- ✓ Bring authentic voice and state/district level data to Washington DC
 - Localize the issue and the impact: what would cuts do to patients, rural communities, hospitals, state economies
 - Engage state, county, and local elected officials (governors, legislators, mayors) to put pressure on federal elected officials
- ✓ Engage the media: humanize the value of the Medicaid program
 - Storytelling campaigns (If you have a story you want to share contact stories@familiesusa.org)
 - Op-eds
 - Press conferences

WHAT CAN YOU DO? TAKE ACTION NOW!

Don't wait for details. Don't get distracted.

Tell Congress not to cut health care for 80 million Americans to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy few.



Educate!
Advocate!

Tell Your Members of Congress: No Cuts to Medicaid!

Send a Message to Congress Today!

Medicaid is a lifeline for coverage and a foundational source of economic and health security for 80 million Americans, and a key funding pillar for the doctors and hospitals on which we all rely. The Medicaid program is under threat this Congress and it is critical that you tell your members of Congress NOW that they cannot cut health care for lower income Americans to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

Congressional Republican leaders have been open about their proposed plans to cut Medicaid, such as:

- Creating a cap to ensure that states only receive a set amount of federal dollars for each beneficiary, known as a per capita cap.
- Transforming Medicaid into a block grant program;
- Eliminating the 90 percent federal match rate for states that have expanded Medicaid;
- Reducing the regular federal match rate;
- Cutting or eliminating state use of taxes on health care providers; and,
- Instituting work reporting requirements as a condition of eligibility for the program, also known as community engagement requirements.

These proposals will have a resounding impact on the ability of American families and workers to access comprehensive, affordable health care.

Please fill out the form below to instantly send a message to your representatives in Congress, telling them to take action today, and that ANY cuts to the Medicaid program are unacceptable.

Take future action with a single click.
Log in or Sign up for FastAction

Details Messages Confirmation

Prefix First Name Last Name

Street Address

866-426-2631
Directs to House
Members by zip code

- Share your stories by emailing us at stories@familiesusa.org
- Make sure you're signed up to our Health Action Network:
<https://familiesusa.org/act/>



*Dedicated to creating a nation where the best health and
health care are equally accessible and affordable to all*



[FamiliesUSA.org](https://www.familiesusa.org)

Advocacy and the Impact of Proposed Medicaid Cuts in Missouri

Gary Harbison, Executive Director
Missouri Coalition for Oral Health

June 25, 2025



Missouri

6.25 million people live in Missouri.

1.3 million are eligible for Missouri Medicaid, also known as MO HealthNet.

Much of the state is rural.

Urban areas are St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield and Columbia. St. Louis is the largest urban area.

Missouri has 8 contiguous states - Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky & Tennessee.



Missouri Medicaid (MO HealthNet)

- Comprehensive Dental Coverage is included for children, residents of nursing homes, people receiving the blind pension fund and pregnant women (covered for a full year post partum)
- The general adult population eligible for Missouri Medicaid has a limited benefit that includes preventive care but does not include dentures and crowns. There are other limitations.
- Missouri Medicaid includes both Fee For Service and Managed Care.

Missouri Is in a Unique Position

- Medicaid expansion established by petition referendum to amend the state constitution
- Having a constitutional amendment for Medicaid expansion makes it difficult to remove the expansion population from Missouri Medicaid (MO HealthNet)
- Expansion population is about 350,000 people

Difficult Math

- A set of phased-in tax cuts passed several years ago will likely result in a tight state budget starting in State Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)
- SFY 2027 will be passed during the next legislative session (Jan. – May 2026)
- **Haug: End of multi-billion Missouri Financial surplus is near** (Jefferson City News Tribune, 11June25) -“The times are going to be getting tougher as we go forward, and so I think we would like to try to limit general revenue spending so that we are able to craft responsible budgets.” – Dan Haug, MO Budget Director, testimony to Senate Appropriations Committee, June 2025 special session
- Deep Cuts in the federal portion of Medicaid will require state funds
- Missouri does not have funding to make up the difference
- Missouri may need to make cuts that go beyond the Medicaid budget

Loss of Coverage

- Current estimate is that as many as 161,000 Missourians will lose Medicaid Eligibility under the current proposal – a little less than **\$28 billion less in total Medicaid funds in 10 years – \$2.7 billion in 1 year.**

(House Budget Bill Medicaid Proposals: State-by-State Estimates of Impacts on Expenditures and Enrollment, Authored by Manatt Health, Revised Analysis June 2, 2025, for FFY 2025-2034)

- These number could be worse with more strict redetermination requirements.
- Missouri has a track record of poor management of determinations/redeterminations, including many administrative losses of coverage.
- Work requirements will place a similar burden on Missouri that will create loss of coverage for many because of administrative issues.

Awareness and Advocacy

- Missouri health advocates have worked to ensure our congressional delegation is aware of potential impacts
- MO Medicaid cuts in 2005 provide a model for the far-reaching impacts of cuts - [Missouri knows from experience: Medicaid cuts will be felt throughout the economy](#)
- We believe there is discussion between the Missouri administration and our congressional delegation

Outspoken Critique of Medicaid Cuts, to a Degree...

- “Republicans need to open their eyes: Our voters support social insurance programs. More than that, our voters depend on those programs.” – Sen. Josh Hawley
- [Hawley Op-Ed: Don't Cut Medicaid](#)
- [Hawley warns GOP Medicaid cuts are 'morally wrong and politically suicidal'](#)
- [A surprising coalition of GOP senators holds all the megabill leverage](#)
- [No one knows better than Josh Hawley that 'work requirements' are Medicaid cuts](#)

Dental Impact

- 2016 Adult Dental Coverage
- 2022 Dental Rate Increase – to 80% UCR (commercial)
- Increased dental provider enrollment
- Various Codes added
- Various Code rates increased

MO Medicaid Matters

Ongoing close working relationship with state Medicaid agency with good results

MO HealthNet Participants Served			
State Fiscal Year	Medicaid Participants	Received Dental Services	Percentage
2022	1,448,416	344,119	23.7%
2023	1,621,131	394,299	24.3%
2024	1,342,138	425,136	31.6%
2025	1,244,522		

Dental Providers Enrolled with Medicaid			
State Fiscal Year	Providers in Missouri	Enrolled with Medicaid	Percentage
2022	3,058	1,038	34%
2023	3,212	1,063	33%
2024	3,218	1,198	37%
Current 2025	3,162	1,318	42%

- **81,017 more Medicaid Participants** accessed Dental service in SFY 2024, compared to SFY 2022.
- **694 New to Medicaid dental providers** have enrolled since our work began in SFY 2022.
- In **SFY2022**, there were **36 counties** that appeared to have **no Medicaid Dental providers**. In **SFY2024** that number was reduced to **17 counties**.

Resources

- Missouri Budget Project -
- [Analysis of the impact of the House reconciliation bill on Medicaid Expansion in Missouri prepared by Joel Ferber, Director of Advocacy, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri.](#)
- [Federal Medicaid Cuts Would Eliminate Health Coverage, Increase Costs for Missourians](#)

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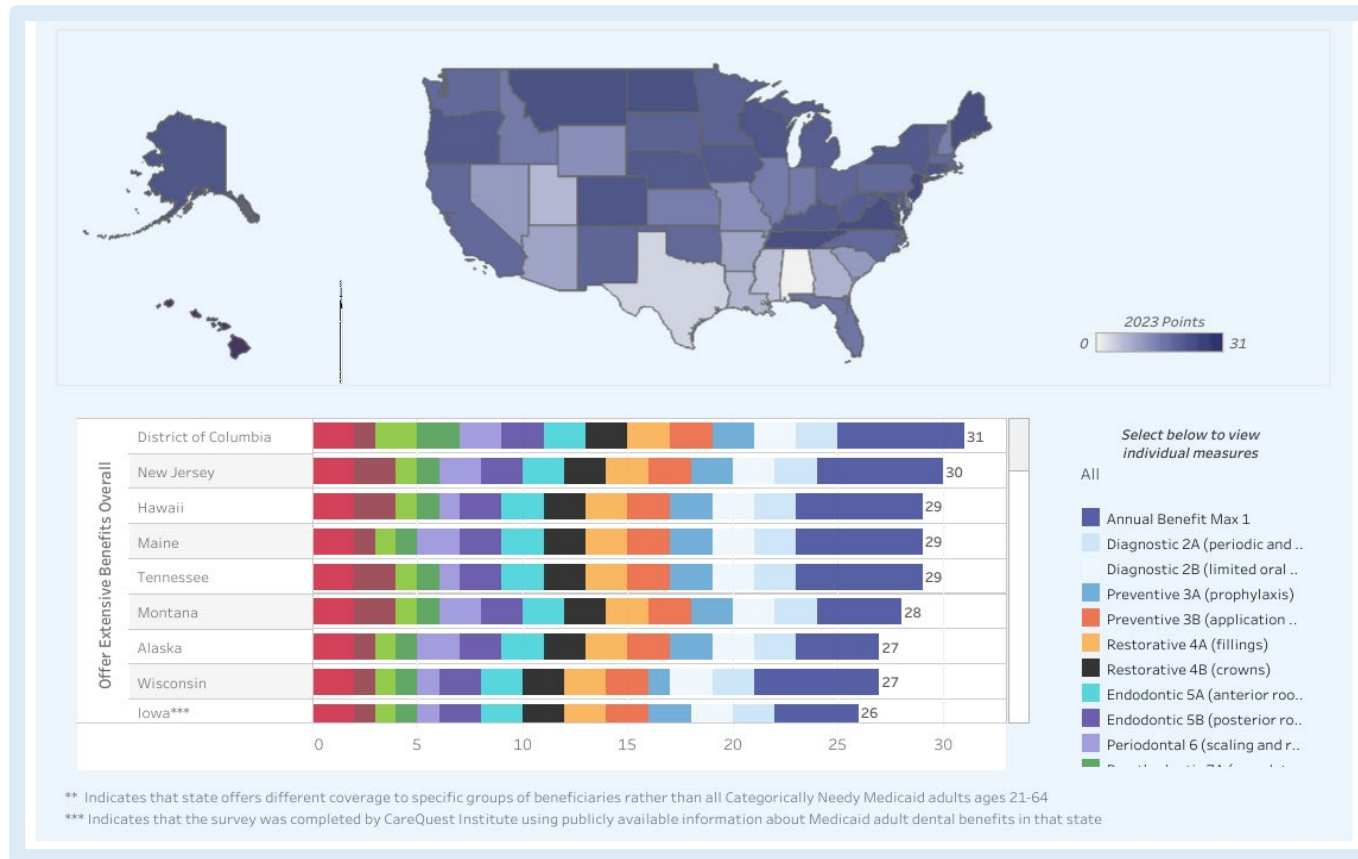
Question and Answer



Share your
QUESTIONS!

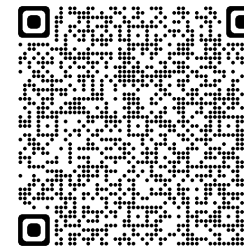
Submit questions for the
speakers in the Q&A box

Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit Coverage Checker



An interactive tool that displays where a state's Medicaid adult dental benefits package falls on a continuum from no dental benefits to extensive benefits.

Helps to identify areas for improvement and expansion.



Scan to see the adult dental benefits in your state



OPEN is a **network** of individuals and entities who are **taking on America's oral health challenges** so that everyone has a chance to thrive.

OPEN members use their unique experiences, knowledge, and skills to lead network activities every year, creating collective energy that is **driving large-scale change**.

Learn more at carequest.org/OPEN

Join us for our next Take 30 with FrameWorks Institute

Framed Messaging 101
July 8, 3 p.m. ET

