



# THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

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## Partnership for Medicaid Calls on Congress to Prioritize Medicaid in COVID-19 Response Legislation

WASHINGTON—The Partnership for Medicaid, a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing clinicians, health care providers, safety net health plans, counties, and labor, calls on Congress to prioritize Medicaid in any legislative response to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The call was issued in an April 17 [letter](#) to House and Senate leadership.

Medicaid is a source of coverage for one in five Americans and plays a key role in connecting individuals to testing and treatment for COVID-19. Medicaid providers care for individuals with low incomes and have taken on significant financial challenges due to lost revenues and increased costs. The *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)* designated up to \$100 billion in funding for health care providers as part of the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF), \$30 billion of which was distributed based solely on Medicare services. It is vital for Congress to ensure a proportionate amount of the remaining \$70 billion, and any additional dollars allocated to the fund, is provided to all Medicaid providers financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Partnership strongly urges Congress to further increase the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid by 5.8 percent, for a total increase of 12 percent, and to extend the length of this enhanced FMAP beyond the current national emergency declarations. Providing an FMAP increase is critical for states to ensure Medicaid beneficiaries have access to care during this public health emergency and should remain until the outbreak is contained and economic indicators illustrate a robust economic recovery.

In the letter, the Partnership also recommended steps to strengthen the Medicaid program and ensure a strong safety net to protect our most vulnerable patients, including suspending implementation of the Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule (MFAR) and Public Charge Regulation, raising Medicaid payment levels to at least that of Medicare, applying maintenance of effort requirements to Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollees, and delaying the CHIP E-FMAP bump by one year.

The Partnership encourages Congress to prioritize Medicaid in the next COVID-19 legislative relief package and looks forward to working with Congress to preserve and strengthen the Medicaid program through this uncertain time and support its vital role as the safety net for Americans.

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**The Partnership for Medicaid** is a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing clinicians, health care providers, safety-net health plans, counties and labor. The goal of the coalition is to preserve and improve the Medicaid program.

**The Partnership for Medicaid** seeks to raise awareness about the vital role played by the Medicaid program, which provides essential health care services to more than 58 million people. By working in a bipartisan manner with all levels of government and affected constituency groups, we seek to provide viable solutions to improving the quality and delivery of services, with the aim of constraining costs without undermining the program's fundamental goals.

Above all, **The Partnership for Medicaid** is a unified voice to ensure that Medicaid continues its crucial role as a strong safety net for vulnerable Americans.