



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

The Partnership for Medicaid Recognizes the 55th Anniversary of Medicaid

On the 55th anniversary of Medicaid, the Partnership for Medicaid, a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing clinicians, health care providers, safety net health plans, counties, and labor, recognizes Medicaid's invaluable contributions to the health and well-being of our nation and the more than 70 million people who depend on it.

If the COVID-19 pandemic shows us anything, it's that Medicaid gets the job done. Millions of Americans find themselves suddenly without private health insurance in the middle of an unprecedented public health emergency. Medicaid is there—as it has been for the last 55 years—as a critical health care safety net to fill the gap, protecting Americans across the country with flexible coverage when they need it most.

Over the past 55 years, Medicaid has evolved to meet the needs of more than 70 million Americans, expanding from a service for low-income women and their children in 1965 to the source of health coverage for more than one in five Americans today. Medicaid beneficiaries include seniors in need of long-term care, people living with disabilities, pregnant and postpartum individuals, teenagers and young adults in foster care, and children.

Medicaid supports working Americans and state economies. Six in 10 Medicaid enrollees are employed, nearly half of whom work for small businesses. Medicaid also helps the economy—especially in rural communities—by supporting vital health care jobs at hospitals, health centers, and other safety net providers, and by keeping workers healthy.

In 55 years, Medicaid's proven value to the people and communities it serves has carried the program through criticisms, cuts, and, just recently, an existential threat. More than half of U.S. adults have been connected to Medicaid, either directly or through care for a friend or family member, and more than one in three children rely on the program for their health care. As we continue to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of Americans will continue turning to Medicaid to maintain access to care.

Our July [letter](#) to Senate leadership outlined a series of steps Congress can take to shore up the Medicaid program and support states during this uncertain time. We urge Congress to prioritize strengthening the Medicaid program so it can maintain its role as a critical resource for Americans, now and always.

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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 65 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.