Why Medicaid Matters

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low-income adults, children, and some people with disabilities or significant medical conditions. Jointly funded and operated by the federal government and the states, Medicaid provides affordable basic health care services, chronic condition care, and long term services and supports to millions of Americans, including many with epilepsy – helping them live meaningful, healthy, and productive lives.

Medicaid provides health care coverage for 74 million Americans

One-third of people with epilepsy rely on Medicaid

Medicaid’s cost per adult is 27% lower than in the private market

Issue Highlight: Medicaid for Low-Income Children

Fast Facts

- 36.8 million American children are enrolled in Medicaid. While these children account for 48% of total Medicaid enrollment, they comprise only 21% of costs.
- Under federal regulations, states are permitted to use funds from CHIP (the Children’s Health Insurance Program) to expand their Medicaid programs and offer insurance coverage to families with incomes above the maximum threshold for traditional Medicaid.
- Medicaid/CHIP cover 39% of children nationwide and 44% of children with special healthcare needs.
- Studies show that children covered by Medicaid and children covered by private insurance have similar levels of access to primary care. With Medicaid, children can receive high-quality preventive care, regardless of their family income.
- Medicaid coverage for children and pregnant women has led to significant declines in infant and child mortality, reduced adolescent mortality, reduced disability, increased educational attainment, and lower rates of hospitalization later in life.

Janell’s Story

Janell, 12, from Texas, was diagnosed with epilepsy after her second birthday. She currently takes two epilepsy medications, and she has been seizure-free for the past year.

Janell and her siblings qualify for Medicaid as a result of her family’s low income. With the assistance Medicaid provides, Janell’s family is able to afford the medications and specialists that she needs to live well with epilepsy.

Without Medicaid, Janell’s mother believes that the health of her daughter and other low-income children would suffer. “Most of my money goes to keeping a roof over our heads and food on the table,” she says. “Medicaid is a lifesaver for my family”