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 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 & Disability

Fast Facts

- Adults with disabilities can qualify for Medicaid based on income level or disability.
- More than 10 million Americans qualify for Medicaid because of a disability.
- Many Medicaid programs consider someone with epilepsy to be disabled if they have uncontrollable seizures that severely impact day-to-day life.
- Over 80% of younger adults with disabilities on Medicaid live below 200% of the poverty line.
- Medicaid can help reduce unemployment and poverty among people with disabilities. In states with strong Medicaid programs, people with disabilities are 6% more likely to be employed.

Alainna’s Story

Alainna, 36, from Wisconsin, was diagnosed with epilepsy and a kidney disorder in childhood. In her early twenties, with medical expenses mounting, Alainna applied for Medicaid to help with the costs of her chronic conditions. For the past twelve years, Medicaid has helped Alainna afford her epilepsy care.

Alainna says that without Medicaid, she and others with epilepsy would not be able to access the care they need. “Medicaid makes all the [health] services affordable. If Medicaid were taken away from us, we wouldn’t be able to cover the cost of ambulances, hospital stays, and pay for the people who take care of us.”