

**State Partners to Engage on Medicaid Defense**

Strengthen your Medicaid work by partnering with other advocacy organizations, stakeholders, and government officials who have influence over decision makers in your state. This guide is meant to help you think about new organizations and individuals to engage in your work to protect and/or expand Medicaid. By clicking on the links, you will be directed to a website where you can search for your state’s affiliate for these organizations.

**Organizations Representing Medicaid Beneficiaries:** *Organizations that represent seniors, people with disabilities, children, low-income families, communities of color, and people with chronic illnesses all have a stake in protecting Medicaid.*

* Consumer health advocacy organizations
* Legal services organizations such as the [National Health Law Program](http://www.healthlaw.org/) and [local legal aid programs](http://www.lsc.gov/)
* Home Health Workers (work with Medicaid beneficiaries and might qualify for Medicaid if expanded) and organizations such as [Caring Across Generations](http://www.caringacrossgenerations.org/)
* Disability advocates
* Child/family advocates such as [Children's Defense Fund state chapters](http://www.childrensdefense.org/state-offices/) and [Voices for America's Children state chapters](http://www.voices.org/organizations/)
* [State budget/fiscal advocates](http://www.statefiscal.org/)
* [State-based affiliates of AARP](http://www.aarp.org/states/)
* Faith-based groups like your [local PICO affiliate](http://www.piconetwork.org/) or your [local Gamaliel affiliate](http://www.gamaliel.org/Contact/USMap.aspx)
* [Center for Community Change affiliates](http://www.communitychange.org/)
* [Family Voices state chapters](http://www.familyvoices.org/)
* Organizations representing low-income people
* [National Alliance for the Mentally Ill state chapters](http://www.nami.org/template.cfm?section=your_local_nami)
* Substance Use Disorder consumer advocacy groups such as [state chapters of Faces and Voices of Recovery](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/regions/)
* State chapters of national voluntary health organizations, like [the Alzheimer's Association](http://www.alz.org/apps/findus.asp), [the American Lung Association](http://www.lung.org/get-involved/in-your-community/), [the American Heart Association](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/localization/chooseState.jsp), and [the American Cancer Society](http://www.acscan.org/).
* HIV/AIDS advocates, such as regional contacts at the [Positive Women's Network](http://www.pwn-usa.org/about/regional-contacts)
* Organizations representing communities of color, such as [local affiliates of the National Urban League](http://nul.iamempowered.com/) and [local units of the NAACP](http://www.naacp.org/pages/find-your-local-unit/)
* Veterans service groups
* Women’s advocates, such as [Raising Women’s Voices](http://www.raisingwomensvoices.net/who-we-are/)
* Other workers/unions, such as [SEIU](http://www.seiu.org/local/) and [AFL-CIO](http://www.aflcio.org/About/AFL-CIO-Unions)
* Tenant organizations/public housing/CED groups
* LGBTQ advocacy groups such as state chapters of the [Human Rights Campaign](http://www.hrc.org/states)

**Stakeholder Groups:** *Organizations representing providers that care for Medicaid beneficiaries, as well as Medicaid managed care organizations and business associations all have an interest in protecting Medicaid funding.*

* [State, Regional and Metropolitan Hospital Associations](http://www.aha.org/about/srmassoc/index.shtml)
* [State and Regional Primary Care Associations](http://www.aha.org/about/srmassoc/index.shtml)
* [State Medical Societies](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/about-ama/our-people/the-federation-medicine/state-medical-society-websites.page) and other health professions associations
* Emergency room providers, minority physician organizations, and other physician groups such as a local network of [the National Physicians Alliance](http://npalliance.org/local-networks/)
* Safety–net providers, such as community health centers, public/DSH hospitals, community affiliated health plans, other Medicaid plans and insurers
* [State Associations for Community Behavioral Health Care](http://www.thenationalcouncil.org/cs/member_associations)
* Substance Use Disorder provider groups such as [state affiliates of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence](http://ncadd.org/)
* [Area Agencies on Aging](http://www.n4a.org/about-n4a/?fa=aaa-title-VI)
* [Independent Living Centers](http://www.ilru.org/html/publications/directory/index.html?3e3ea140)
* [State Nurses Associations](http://nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/AboutANA/WhoWeAre/CMA.aspx)
* [State Dental Organizations](http://www.ada.org/stateorganizations.aspx)
* [State Home Care Associations](http://www.nahc.org/stateforum/directory.html)
* [State Nursing Home Associations](http://www.ahcancal.org/about_ahca/ahca_membership/Pages/StateAffiliates.aspx)
* [State Associations of Addiction Services](http://www.saasnet.org/)
* Business associations, such as your state’s [Main Street Alliance](http://mainstreetalliance.org/) or [Small Business Majority](http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/state-activity/)
* Large business associations and/or purchasing associations (who get cost shift)
* Medicaid managed care organizations in your state
* Health plans/insurers
* Pharmacists

**State and Local Government Officials:** *State Government officials also have an interest in advocating for adequate federal funding of the program. Local government may run safety-net services. Big city mayors and city councilors may have concerns about constituents and about providers that would lead them to be supportive*

* Governor’s office
* State agency on disabilities
* State Medicaid Director
* Supportive state legislators
* Health care and budget/finance committee chairs
* Mayors and county officials