



Five Ways Medicaid is Making Health Care Better

More than 74 million people, including children, older adults and people with disabilities rely on Medicaid to help them access the care they need to get healthy and stay healthy.

But did you know that the Medicaid program is also helping to improve the health care system? Medicaid provides states with the financing and flexibility to adopt innovative solutions that lower health care costs by improving patients' care and making it more person-centered.

Here are Five Ways Medicaid is Improving Health Care:

- 1. Allowing Older Adults to Age in Their Homes:** Medicaid covers home health services that can enable older adults to live independently in their own homes and communities instead of having to move into a nursing home.
- 2. Fighting Substance Use:** Medicaid programs are working to improve screening and treatment for substance use disorder, including improving screening by health care providers for substance use disorders and ensuring people can access the treatment they need.
- 3. Ensuring Healthy Kids become Healthy Adults:** States are using innovative approaches to improve children's health through Medicaid, such as by establishing a home visitation programs to support new parents and helping pediatricians connect their patients to the social services they need.
- 4. Keeping People Out Of the Hospital:** Innovative Medicaid programs can help patients address health concerns early on so they don't end up in the emergency room and make it easier for patients to get the follow-up care they need when they leave the hospital, so they don't have to go back for preventable reasons.
- 5. Incentivizing Doctors to Keep People Healthy:** New Medicaid financing models make sure doctors are rewarded based on how well they care for their patients, making them better able to tailor care to what their patients need.

The Republican Health Care Bill Jeopardizes these Improvements

The health care bills Republicans have proposed contain ***billions in cuts to Medicaid funding*** and impose permanent cuts and caps on Medicaid funding. These proposals would hinder innovation and the ability to improve care. Funding cuts would force states to cut costs dramatically. This means that states would be focused on ways to cut eligibility, benefits and provider payments rather than ways to improve care and lower long-term costs through innovation.

The Republican health care proposal is a step backwards in improving health care. It threatens the health coverage of millions and Americans and will undo all the progress Medicaid has made in ensuring patients can get healthy and stay healthy.