



What Medicaid Cuts Mean for People With Disabilities

Kids With Disabilities

- **Loss of Essential Care:** Medicaid covers almost 50% of all U.S. children with disabilities, providing critical medical services like therapies and specialized care.¹ Cuts would strip access to these services, hindering their development and well-being.
- **Disrupted Early Intervention:** Medicaid funds early intervention programs that help kids with disabilities reach key developmental milestones. Cuts could delay or deny these programs, leaving children behind and struggling to catch up.
- **Financial Strain on Families:** Without Medicaid, families would face higher out-of-pocket costs for necessary treatments, creating a severe financial burden.
- **Increased Risk of Institutionalization:** Medicaid supports home and community-based services, allowing children to live with their families. Cuts could force more children into institutions, stripping away the care and support they need to thrive at home.

Adults With Disabilities

- **Worsened Health Outcomes:** With 6 million adults with disabilities relying on Medicaid,² cuts would reduce access to vital services—physical therapy, medications, and medical equipment—leading to worsening health conditions.
- **Increased Financial Strain:** Medicaid provides affordable care for many adults with disabilities. Cuts would force individuals to pay out-of-pocket, creating financial hardship and risking untreated or delayed medical care.
- **Threat to Independence:** Medicaid funds essential long-term services, like in-home care and assisted living. Cuts would limit access to these services, increasing the risk of institutionalization and undermining independence.

Workers With Disabilities

- **Loss of Job Training and Support:** Medicaid funds vital programs that help workers with disabilities access job training, transportation, and social services. Cuts could limit opportunities for employment and independence.
- **Increased Job Instability:** Many workers rely on Medicaid for critical support, such as transportation, personal care, and medical devices. Reductions could jeopardize their ability to maintain or advance in employment.
- **Disincentive to Work:** Medicaid cuts could create a "benefits cliff," where workers risk losing coverage as their income rises, discouraging career growth and full-time employment due to the loss of essential health care.

¹ <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/children-with-special-health-care-needs-coverage-affordability-and-hcbs-access/>

² <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/people-with-disabilities-are-at-risk-of-losing-medicaid-coverage-without-the-aca-expansion/>

People Who Are Medically Complex

- **Reduced Access to Life-Saving Care:** Cuts would limit funding for critical services like specialized treatments, therapies, and home health care, leading to delays or loss of essential support for those with complex conditions.
- **Higher Out-of-Pocket Costs:** With fewer resources, people may face skyrocketing costs for medications, equipment, and specialist visits, making essential care unaffordable.
- **Limited Long-Term Care Access:** Cuts would further limit already scarce long-term care options, including nursing homes, personal aides, and respite care—vital services for those with severe disabilities or chronic illnesses.
- **Greater Burden on Family Caregivers:** Without Medicaid, families will bear more financial and emotional strain, lacking the support they need to care for their loved ones. Families often already don't have the support they need—this would worsen this crisis.
- **Worsened Health and Higher Risk of Death:** Reduced coverage would disrupt routine care and preventative services, leading to more hospitalizations, ER visits, and untreated health complications, ultimately increasing the risk of death.