

Medicaid Empowers Arizona Work

Medicaid has been a successful federal-state partnership for over 50 years. Known in Arizona as **AHCCCS**, **Medicaid provides affordable health coverage for 2 million adults, children, seniors, and people with disabilities**. Most people who are covered by Medicaid have incomes below 133% of the federal poverty line, for a family of three, less than \$26,000 in annual income.

Medicaid Helps Families Work

Untreated illness makes it hard to work. A growing body of research shows that affordable healthcare helps Medicaid members maintain employment.

- Medicaid members make up the **backbone of our economy such as food service, construction, and retail workers** – jobs that typically don't offer health insurance [Urban Institute, 2017].
- **79% of AHCCCS members in Arizona live in households with at least one full time (66%) or part time (13%) worker** [Kaiser Family Foundation, 2015].
- Health insurance helps to protect families from personal bankruptcy and debt. Medical debt is the leading cause of personal bankruptcy for US families [*Medical Debt as a Cause of Consumer Bankruptcy*, Main Law Review, 2015].

While cutting Medicaid may look like lower spending, stripping healthcare away from Arizonans ends up racking up expenses on the back end.

- Children who have Medicaid miss fewer days of school, graduate at higher rates, earn better incomes, and pay more taxes as adults [National Bureau of Economic Research, 2014].
- Being healthy enough to work is critical to self-reliance. Medicaid coverage for adults is associated with better medication adherence, increased screening for and detection of diabetes, more regular treatment of chronic conditions, and improved health [JAMA Internal Medicine, August 2016].
- Arizona hospitals paid \$158 million less in uncompensated care from 2014 to 2016, when AHCCCS restored coverage to childless adults [Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, 2016].

Medicaid Supports our State Economy

Medicaid supports our economy, our schools, and jobs by bringing billions of our federal tax dollars back into our state. Two-thirds of every dollar spent in Arizona on Medicaid is from the federal budget. [AHCCCS, 2016]

- A 2017 study by the ASU WP Carey School of Business estimated that **losing federal dollars associated with Medicaid expansion and the ACA Marketplace would wipe out 62,000 Arizona jobs in the first year**.
- About half of those jobs lost would be in the health care sector – our fastest growing employment sector [ASU WP Carey School of Business, 2017].
- The federal partnership for AHCCCS allows the state budget to focus more on K-12 education. In addition, Arizona schools counted on \$27 million in federal Medicaid funding for students with disabilities and learning challenges last year [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2017].

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