



Medicaid Matters to California's 40th Congressional District (CA-40)

California's Medicaid program (Medi-Cal) is a lifeline in Orange County

Medi-Cal provides health coverage for children, working families, veterans, vulnerable seniors, people with disabilities and many others in Orange County.¹

Medi-Cal serves as the core financial backbone of Orange County's health care system, paying for care and services at local clinics and hospitals and serving as a critical engine for the local economy.

In CA-40, Medicaid Serves:



A total of 162,000 people — **21% of all residents** in the district.²



A total of 39,400 children — **25% of all children** in the district.³



A total of **27,500 seniors** and **people with disabilities**.⁴

Millions of Californians will lose health coverage and care if Congress cuts or caps Medicaid funding, forcing the state to offset budget holes by throwing people off coverage, cutting provider reimbursement, and/or eliminating essential health services.⁵ Any cut to Medicaid is a direct attack on the health and financial security of people living in Orange County and runs counter to the will of the vast majority of voters from across political parties who want Congress to continue to guarantee coverage for low-income people through Medicaid.⁶



91% of people living in CA-40 say Medicaid is "important" to the state, including 94% of Democrats, 88% of Independents, and 87% of Republicans.⁷



More than 2/3 of people living in CA-40 oppose cuts to federal Medi-Cal funding.⁸



Roughly 70% of people living in CA-40 are concerned that future enrollees might not receive the same benefits that are available today.⁹

Protecting Medicaid Means:

CHILDREN IN CA-40

Have access to newborn care, checkups, care for diabetes and asthma, and more.

Stay healthy and ready to learn, miss fewer school days, are more likely to graduate, and earn more as adults.¹⁰



FAMILIES IN CA-40

Have access to cancer screenings, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and diabetes and blood pressure medications.

Have less risk of medical debt and eviction and can better afford to buy groceries or pay rent.¹¹



SENIORS IN CA-40

Have access to nursing home care, transportation to medical appointments, and home health services.

Stay healthy and receive needed care in their homes and communities.



Medicaid keeps families in CA-40 healthy and working

Many low-wage jobs either do not offer health coverage or offer coverage that is unaffordable. Medicaid provides health coverage for workers at these jobs so they can remain healthy and earn income for their families.

- **At least 33,345 low-wage workers** in CA-40 are covered by Medi-Cal.¹²
- Nationwide, **92% of adults** covered by Medicaid either work, care for a family member, have an illness or disability, or attend school.¹³

Cutting Medicaid would make our country's affordability crisis much worse for families in California who already face significant health care costs.

Medicaid is the bedrock of the health system in Orange County

Medi-Cal keeps hospitals across the county open. It pays for:

- **45% of all hospital services** provided at Orange County Global Medical Center.
- **22% of all hospital services** provided at Providence St. Joseph Hospital Orange.
- **21% of all hospital services** at UCI Medical Center.¹⁴

If Medicaid is cut, hospitals will treat more uninsured people, and the amount of uncompensated care will increase. A total of 5% of the district's residents are already uninsured, and increased losses in patient revenue would put all California hospitals at risk.¹⁵

Medi-Cal also plays important roles in providing access to behavioral health care and nursing home care. Medicaid is the largest payer for mental health care, substance use disorder treatment, and other community services to curb the opioid epidemic and care for people with mental illness.¹⁶ **Medi-Cal also covers 3 in 5 nursing home residents in California.**¹⁷

Medicaid stabilizes California's state and local economies

Medicaid is the largest source of federal funding for California, accounting for 60% of the federal funds received by the state.¹⁸ Medicaid dollars ensure California can deliver essential health care without depleting resources reserved for other essential services, including public safety, transportation, housing and education.

Cutting Medicaid would make our country's affordability crisis much worse. Americans from all backgrounds just voted for economic security, imploring their representatives to lower costs on everyday needs, including health care. Cutting Medicaid would be a direct betrayal of constituents by making health care more unaffordable. **Families in Orange County and across Southern California already face significant health care costs:**

- **79% of people living in Southern California** are worried about affording health care.
- **30% of people living in Southern California** incurred debt, depleted savings or sacrificed basic needs due to medical bills.
- **45% of people living in Southern California** skipped needed care due to cost.¹⁹

Congress has the responsibility to stand with families in California and across the country by protecting Medicaid and opposing any attempts to weaken this essential program.

Endnotes

- ¹ Rhiannon Euhus, Alice Burns, and Robin Rudowitz, “Congressional District Interactive Map: Medicaid Enrollment by Eligibility Group,” KFF, March 11, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/congressional-district-interactive-map-medicaid-enrollment-by-eligibility-group/>.
- ² Euhus, Burns, and Rudowitz, “Congressional District Interactive Map.”
- ³ Families USA analysis of data from Euhus, Burns, and Rudowitz, “Congressional District Interactive Map” and U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, “Age and Sex,” American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101, 2023, accessed February 10, 2025, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S0101?q=S0101&g=500XX00US0640>.
- ⁴ Euhus, Burns, and Rudowitz, “Congressional District Interactive Map.”
- ⁵ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicaid and CHIP profile, November 2024. <https://www.medicaid.gov/state-overviews/state-profiles>.
- ⁶ Grace Sparks, Robin Rudowitz, and Ashley Kirzinger, “Public Opinion on the Future of Medicaid: Results From the KFF Medicaid Unwinding Survey and KFF Health Tracking Poll,” KFF, June 4, 2024, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/poll-finding/public-opinion-on-the-future-of-medicaid-kff-medicaid-unwinding-kff-health-tracking-poll/>.
- ⁷ California Health Care Foundation, “Polling in Congressional District 40 Reveals Attitudes About Medi-Cal, Covered California, and Federal Cuts to Both,” April 15, 2025. <https://www.chcf.org/publication/poll-district-40-attitudes-medi-cal-covered-ca-federal-cuts/>.
- ⁸ California Health Care Foundation, “Polling in Congressional District 40.”
- ⁹ California Health Care Foundation, “Polling in Congressional District 40.”
- ¹⁰ “How Medicaid Supports Student Success,” Georgetown University, Center for Children and Families, accessed March 11, 2025, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/01/09/how-medicaid-supports-student-success/>.
- ¹¹ David U. Himmelstein et al., “Prevalence and Risk Factors for Medical Debt and Subsequent Changes in Social Determinants of Health in the US,” *JAMA Network Open* 5, no. 9 (2022): e2231898, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2796358>.
- ¹² U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, “Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type by Work Experience by Sex,” American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B27012, 2023, accessed February 10, 2025, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2023.B27012?q=Table+B27012&g=500XX00US0640>.
- ¹³ Jennifer Tolbert et al., “Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid and Work: An Update,” KFF, February 4, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work-an-update/>.
- ¹⁴ “Hospital Cost Tool,” National Academy for State Health Policy, last updated February 7, 2025, <https://tool.nashp.org/>.
- ¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, “Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States,” American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2701, 2023, accessed February 10, 2025, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S2701?q=Table+S2701&g=500XX00US0640>.
- ¹⁶ “Behavioral Health Services,” Medicaid.gov, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, n.d., <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/behavioral-health-services/index.html>; “How Medicaid Helps People With Substance Use Disorders,” Georgetown University, Center for Children and Families, accessed on February, 29, 2025, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/02/19/how-medicaid-helps-people-with-substance-use-disorders/>; “Medicaid Is Vital to California,” Georgetown University, Center for Children and Families, February 2025, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Medicaid-is-Vital-to-California-2025-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.
- ¹⁷ “Medicaid in California,” KFF, August 2024, <https://files.kff.org/attachment/fact-sheet-medicaid-state-CA>.
- ¹⁸ Georgetown University, Center for Children and Families, “Medicaid Is Vital.”
- ¹⁹ “California Respondents Struggle to Afford High Healthcare Costs; Worry About Affording Healthcare in the Future; Support Government Action Across Party Lines,” Healthcare Value Hub, Data Brief no. 149, January 2023, <https://healthcarevaluehub.org/wp-content/uploads/CA-Affordability-Brief-PDF.pdf>.

This publication was written by the following Families USA staff:

Mary-Beth Malcarney, Senior Advisor on Medicaid Policy
Ben Anderson, Deputy Senior Director, Health Policy
Mackenzie Marshall, Government Relations Manager

The following Families USA staff contributed to the preparation of this material
(listed alphabetically):

Nicholas Chang, Policy Analyst
Nichole Edralin, Associate Director, Design and Publications
Sweta Haldar, Senior Policy Analyst
Hazel Law, Policy Analyst
Aaron Plotke, Senior Policy Analyst
Jen Taylor, Senior Director, Government Relations
Sophia Tripoli, Senior Director, Health Policy
Kiersten Zinyengere, Communications Manager

