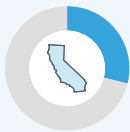**FAMILIESUSA**
THE VOICE FOR HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS

Medicaid Matters to California's 41st Congressional District (CA-41)

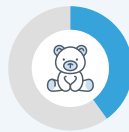### California's Medicaid program (Medi-Cal) is a lifeline in Riverside County

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

Medi-Cal serves as the core financial backbone of Riverside 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–41, Medicaid Serves:

A total of 233,000 people — **29% of all residents** in the district.[2]

A total of 70,500 children — **40% of all children** in the district.[3]

A total of **35,900 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 Riverside 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]

Nearly 70% of people living in CA-41 consider Medi-Cal "personally important" to them and their families, with majorities across all political affiliations expressing that the program is "working well."[7]

Nearly 3 in 4 people living in CA-41 oppose federal cuts to the program.[8]

72% of CA-41 residents worry that future enrollees will not receive the same benefits that are available today.[9]

Protecting Medicaid Means:

CHILDREN IN CA-41

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-41

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-41

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-41 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 57,370 low-wage workers** in CA-41 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 Riverside County

Medicaid keeps hospitals across the county open. It pays for:

- **46% of all hospital services** at Menifee Global Medical Center.
- **39% of all hospital services** at Southwest Healthcare Corona Regional Medical Center.
- **28% of all hospital services** provided at Southwest Healthcare Inland Valley Hospital.[14]

If Medicaid is cut, hospitals will treat more uninsured people, and the amount of uncompensated care will increase. A total of 6% of the district's residents are already uninsured, and increased losses in patient revenue would put all Riverside County 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 Riverside County 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

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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=500XX00US0641.

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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/.

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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.

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