



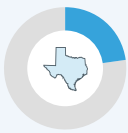
## Medicaid Matters to Texas' 15th Congressional District (TX-15)

### Texas' Medicaid program is a lifeline for people in South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley

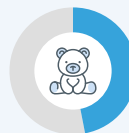
Texas' Medicaid program, including STAR, STAR Health, STAR Kids and STAR+PLUS, provides health coverage for children, working families, veterans, vulnerable seniors, people with disabilities and many others in Texas.<sup>1</sup>

Medicaid serves as the core financial backbone of the South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley health care system, paying for care and services at local clinics and hospitals and serving as a critical engine for the local economy.

### In TX-15, Medicaid Serves:



A total of 181,400 people — **23% of all residents** in the district. In fact, TX-15 has the second-highest Medicaid enrollment in the state.<sup>2</sup>



A total of 105,900 children — **47% of all children** in the district.<sup>3</sup>



A total of **42,000 seniors** and **people with disabilities**.<sup>4</sup>

**More than 4 million people in Texas are at risk of losing 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.**<sup>5</sup> Any cut to Medicaid is a direct attack on the health and financial security of people living in South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley 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.<sup>6</sup>



A total of **82% of adults** want Congress to maintain or increase Medicaid spending.<sup>7</sup>



A total of **67% of Republicans** want Congress to maintain or increase Medicaid spending.<sup>8</sup>



A total of **71% of voters** want Congress to guarantee coverage for low-income people through Medicaid.<sup>9</sup>

## Protecting Medicaid Means:

### CHILDREN IN TX-15

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.<sup>10</sup>



### FAMILIES IN TX-15

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.<sup>11</sup>



### SENIORS IN TX-15

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 TX-15 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 20,100 low-wage workers** in TX-15 are covered by Medicaid.<sup>12</sup>
- Nationwide, **92% of adults** covered by Medicaid either work, care for a family member, have an illness or disability, or attend school.<sup>13</sup>

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

## Medicaid is the bedrock of the health system in South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley

**Medicaid keeps hospitals in the district open.** It pays for:

- **22% of all hospital services** provided at South Texas Health System Edinburg.
- **20% of all hospital services** provided at DHR Health Edinburg Hospital & ER.
- **19% of all hospital services** provided at CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital — Alice.<sup>14</sup>

If Medicaid is cut, hospitals will treat more uninsured people, and the amount of uncompensated care will increase. **A total of 22% of the district's residents are already uninsured, and increased losses in patient revenue would put all South Texas and Rio Grande Valley hospitals at risk.**<sup>15</sup>

Medicaid 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.<sup>16</sup> **Medicaid also covers 3 in 5 nursing home residents in Texas.**<sup>17</sup>

## Medicaid stabilizes Texas' state and local economies

Medicaid is the largest source of federal funding for Texas, accounting for 57% of the federal funds received by the state.<sup>18</sup> Medicaid dollars ensure Texas 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 South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley already face significant health care costs:**

- **78% of people** living near San Antonio and **87% of people** living in parts of South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley are worried about affording health care.
- **43% of people** living near San Antonio and **54% of people** living in parts of South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley had to deplete savings, take on debt or sacrifice basic necessities to obtain medical care.
- **56% of people** living near San Antonio and **60% of people** living in parts of South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley skipped needed care due to cost.<sup>19</sup>

**Congress has the responsibility to stand with families in South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley and across the country by protecting Medicaid and opposing any attempts to weaken this essential program.**

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> 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/>.
- <sup>2</sup> Euhus, Burns, and Rudowitz, “Congressional District Interactive Map.”
- <sup>3</sup> 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=500XX00US4815>.
- <sup>4</sup> Euhus, Burns, and Rudowitz, “Congressional District Interactive Map.”
- <sup>5</sup> “Medicaid & CHIP in Texas,” Medicaid.gov, U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, n.d., <https://www.medicaid.gov/state-overviews/stateprofile.html?state=texas>.
- <sup>6</sup> 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/>.
- <sup>7</sup> “7 Charts About Public Opinion on Medicaid,” KFF, March 7, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/poll-finding/7-charts-about-public-opinion-on-medicaid/>.
- <sup>8</sup> KFF, “7 Charts.”
- <sup>9</sup> Sparks, Rudowitz, and Kirzinger, “Public Opinion.”
- <sup>10</sup> “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/>.
- <sup>11</sup> 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>.
- <sup>12</sup> 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=b27012&g=500XX00US4815>.
- <sup>13</sup> 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/>.
- <sup>14</sup> “Hospital Cost Tool,” National Academy for State Health Policy, last updated February 7, 2025, <https://tool.nashp.org/>.
- <sup>15</sup> 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=s2701&g=500XX00US4815>.
- <sup>16</sup> “Behavioral Health Services,” Medicaid.gov, U.S. 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 February 29, 2025, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/02/19/how-medicaid-helps-people-with-substance-use-disorders/>; “Medicaid Is Vital to Texas’s Children,” Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, February 2025, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Medicaid-is-Vital-to-Texas-Children.pdf>.
- <sup>17</sup> “Medicaid in Texas,” KFF, August 2024, <https://files.kff.org/attachment/fact-sheet-medicaid-state-TX>.
- <sup>18</sup> Georgetown University, “Medicaid Is Vital.”
- <sup>19</sup> “Texas Survey Respondents Struggle to Afford High Health Care Costs; Worry About Affording Health Care in the Future; Support Government Action Across Party Lines,” Healthcare Value Hub, March 2024, [https://healthcarevaluehub.org/wp-content/uploads/2024\\_TX\\_CHESS\\_Affordability\\_Brief.pdf](https://healthcarevaluehub.org/wp-content/uploads/2024_TX_CHESS_Affordability_Brief.pdf).

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