

Maintain Medicaid Coverage: Preserve health care for those who can least afford it



Status of Missouri Medicaid

Missouri Medicaid (MO HealthNet) covers about 963,000 Missouri children, pregnant women, elderly, disabled, and very low income parents.

Missouri is one of the best in the country at investing in the health of children through the state's CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program). This means that 92.8% of Missouri children have coverage.

Rural Missourians and rural health care services including hospitals and physicians are especially dependent on the MO HealthNet program.

Missouri has yet to expand its Medicaid program under the ACA so only individuals making less than 19% of the federal poverty level are eligible for coverage.

Proposed changes to Medicaid

Block grants

The federal government has considered funding Medicaid utilizing block grants to the states.

Over time, this system would decrease federal financial support for Missouri Medicaid by millions of dollars.

Waivers already give Missouri the flexibility it needs to meet the needs of participants.

Block grants would dramatically increase Missouri's responsibility for administering MO HealthNet requiring significant investments in information technology and other infrastructure.

Work requirements

Given Missouri's strict eligibility criteria for adults on Medicaid, all recipients would have to be screened for eligibility but only affect 1-2% of the current participants.

Work requirement programs can be financially and administratively burdensome.

Drug testing

No state Medicaid currently requires drug testing for its beneficiaries. It is counterproductive since drug treatment is a key opportunity to improve the health of its citizens.

Drug testing can also be financially and administratively burdensome. For example, in 2014 Missouri appropriated \$336,000 to drug test applicants for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. That year, of 38,970 applicants, 446 were referred to follow-up testing and only 48 tested positive.

We urge lawmakers to preserve health care for those who can least afford it by maintaining Missouri's current Medicaid system, not imposing work requirements or drug testing, and resisting any federal efforts to fund Medicaid utilizing block grants to states.

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