

CONGRESS IS TRYING TO CUT MEDICAID - ACT NOW!

Impacts on People with Disabilities in Wisconsin

What is Happening in Washington?

Policymakers in Washington are asking for big changes to Medicaid that will mean Wisconsin will get less money for the programs people with disabilities depend on. These changes are part of a plan to get rid of Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), which provided extra funding for Medicaid. Many policymakers think Medicaid gets too much money, so their plan also limits how much money states get for Medicaid. The plan to cut Medicaid is moving very fast.

What will be cut?

Many policymakers don't understand how many people use Medicaid program supports or how they use Medicaid. In Wisconsin, Medicaid supports more than 1 million people – from babies, children, people with disabilities and older adults. Medicaid pays for doctor visits, surgeries, cancer treatments, transportation, personal cares, therapies, job coaches and all kinds of supports that help people live healthy lives in their communities and work and live independently.

Many people don't even know that supports they use are funded by Medicaid. Your ForwardHealth card, a family's Katie Beckett program, MAPP, Family Care, IRIS, children's long-term supports, school therapies and many other supports are all funded by state and federal Medicaid dollars. In fact, the federal government now pays 60 percent of all services you receive in a Medicaid program. That is a lot of money!

What is a Per Capita Cap?

Congress wants to cut Medicaid by using something called a Per Capita Cap. People who use Medicaid would be put into different groups. Everyone with a disability would be placed in the same group and the state would receive a set amount of money to provide services to everyone in the group. The amount of money for that group will be "capped" or have a limit.

The caps would only increase a small amount each year. In ten years, the amount of money Wisconsin would receive for Medicaid would be millions less than it is today. There won't be enough money to go around.



The plan also says that if Wisconsin ends up spending more than their cap amount for people with disabilities, they will have even more federal money taken away.

What Might Happen if this Bill Passes?

People are worried that if there is less money in their program, they won't be able to get the same services they do today. Wisconsin could choose to fund fewer programs and services because they couldn't afford them anymore. Rules could change so some people may no longer be eligible to receive supports or the state might again put people on waiting lists for programs like Family Care or IRIS. Many people worry they would be forced into a nursing home if there is not enough money to help them live in the community.

What can YOU do?

Tell your story to the 6 different policymakers listed below.

Share your story of how you use a Medicaid program or service.

Ask each policymaker a question like:

- How much money will Wisconsin lose under this proposal now or in future years?
- How will my supports or my program be changed? Will people have to wait for supports?
- How can you guarantee my level of services won't change?
- How will Wisconsin be able to support the same number of people and offer the same services as it does today if it gets less federal money?
- Could Wisconsin decide to take away some services, like supports in the community, if they are not required to provide them?

Ask your policymaker to find out the answer to your questions. You can say you will call them back.

Contact these 6 people with your questions NOW:

- 1. Your Congressional Representative in Washington:**
<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/WI>
- 2. U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin: 800-247-5645**
- 3. U.S. Senator Ron Johnson: 920-230-7250**
- 4. Governor Walker: 608-266-1212**
- 5. Your State Assembly Representative: 1-800-362-9472**
- 6. Your State Senator: 1-800-362-9472**

People First Wisconsin



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Do you have more questions about changes to Medicaid?

Contact Cindy Bentley at 414-483-2546 or peoplefirst@gmail.com or
Lisa Pugh at 608-422-4250 or Pugh@TheArc.org.