

Medicaid Disproportionate Share Payments are Critical to Ensure Access for California's Most Vulnerable

Background

- More than 150 hospitals in California participate in Medicaid's Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Program, a financial lifeline for hospitals that care for the most vulnerable — impoverished, disabled, and elderly populations, as well as California's children.
- Payments from this program are vital to preserving access to services such as trauma and burn care, maternal and child health, high-risk neonatal care, and more. DSH resources are also vital to deliver care to those without any health coverage at all.
- Without congressional action, major cuts to this essential program are scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1, 2025, and would reduce payments to California's hospitals by as much as \$1.3 billion.
- Congress, understanding how essential Medicaid DSH funding is to these hospitals, has repeatedly delayed the implementation of Medicaid DSH cuts with strong bipartisan support. To preserve access to vital services, Congress must take action again.

Key Messages

- As a safety net provider, [NAME OF HOSPITAL], relies on Medicaid DSH payments to help us ensure access to care for our community.
- Our Medicaid patient population is [XXX]. [SHARE MORE DETAILS OF YOUR HOSPITAL'S SERVICES, PATIENTS, COMMUNITY, ETC. – THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS, AND HOW YOUR HOSPITAL SUPPORTS THEM].
- [NAME OF HOSPITAL] ensures access to vital health care services for those most in need. We provide essential services for everyone — regardless of whether they have health insurance — such as primary and specialty care, trauma care, neonatology, burn care, pediatric care, and behavioral health.
- Please ensure that Congress extends the delay in the cuts to Medicaid DSH program once again, so [NAME OF HOSPITAL] can continue to be here for the community and people we both serve.

Resources

- [Coalition Letter](#)
- [DSH Fact Sheet](#)