

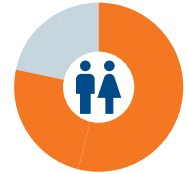
# Medicaid in California



## Medicaid is a lifeline to millions of Californians

**14.9 million Californians** — 38% of the state's population — were enrolled in Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid program) in October 2024.<sup>1</sup>

- **Nearly 50% of people** living in rural California counties are enrolled in Medicaid — the largest source of health care coverage in rural communities.
- **In addition to Medicaid, more than 1.5 million Californians** rely on federal support to pay for their exchange-based insurance premiums.
- **5 million children** — 50% of all kids — are covered by Medicaid.
- **40% of all births** in California are covered by Medicaid.



**3/4 of Medicaid enrollees** live in a household with someone working full or part time<sup>2</sup>



## Fast facts about Medicaid financing

Medicaid funding is shared by state and federal governments.

- The federal share of Medicaid spending, the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), varies between states. It is set at 50% for California, the lowest level allowed under current law.
- The federal share for the nearly 5 million low-income Californians (about one-third of California enrollees) who were enrolled due to the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act is 90%.
- A change in the FMAP would decimate health care coverage in California and devastate the providers who care for Californians.
- States fund their share of the Medicaid program through a patchwork of financing mechanisms approved by Congress — 49 states rely on provider taxes to fund a portion of their state Medicaid program.



## CA spends Medicaid funding efficiently

Program expenses vary widely between the different populations served by Medicaid.<sup>3</sup>

- While children make up 33% of the enrollees, they are only 6% of the spending.
- Annual spending per child enrolled is just \$2,359.
- Annual spending per senior enrolled is \$14,163, or 17% of total spending.
- Annual spending per person with a disability is \$26,393 or 31% of total spending.

Adjusted for cost of living, California's per enrollee spending ranks 14th lowest in the nation.<sup>4</sup> Hospitals are paid about **80 cents for every dollar** it costs to care for a Medicaid patient.



**As Congress considers federal budget options, access to health care for rural Californians, children, and seniors must be protected.**



<sup>1</sup> CHCF: <https://www.chcf.org/publication/how-many-congressional-district-get-medi-cal-premium-subsidy-through-covered-california/#related-links-and-downloads>

<sup>2</sup> CHCF: CA Health Care Almanac June 2024

<sup>3</sup> page 48 in CA Health Care Almanac – page 49 for percentages

<sup>4</sup> BEA and KFF data