



Here We Stand For People. For Care. For Medicaid.

MEDICAID FAQ

Q1: What is Medicaid, and who does it serve?

Medicaid is the largest source of health coverage in the United States, serving more than 80 million people — that's one in four Americans. It covers children, older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and working families who fall through the cracks of the private insurance system. It is the main funder of long-term care, the largest payer of mental health services, and a critical support for rural hospitals and home health programs.

For Lutheran Services in America members, Medicaid isn't just a funding stream. It is the backbone of community-based care. Our members use it every day to deliver high-quality, nonprofit services to people who might otherwise go without. When Medicaid is weakened, the impact is immediate. Care disappears, and the most vulnerable members of our communities are left behind. That's why this program matters so deeply to our organization and our members.

Q2: Isn't Medicaid just for people who don't work?

That's a common misconception. Most adults on Medicaid are working, caregiving, or managing health issues that keep them from working full-time. In fact, many of the people our members care for, and many of the caregivers themselves, rely on Medicaid to stay healthy enough to do their jobs. Medicaid supports the workforce behind our care system, especially in faith-based and nonprofit settings where resources are limited.

Q3: Does Medicaid really cover children?

One in three children in the U.S. is covered by Medicaid. It helps with early screenings, things like asthma treatment, and developmental support during the most critical years of life. Medicaid funds care in schools, supports children with disabilities, and ensures families can access pediatricians, mental health services, and dental care that might otherwise be out of reach.

Lutheran Services in America members know that healthy children are more likely to succeed in school, avoid costly hospital visits, and grow into thriving adults. We also see the deeper reality: children who lack care fall behind, academically, socially, and physically. Medicaid is one of the most effective tools we have to break cycles of poverty and give every child a fair shot. For our organization, ensuring this commitment to our youngest Americans is a moral imperative.

Q4: Why do seniors need Medicaid if they already have Medicare?

Medicare covers medical treatment like doctor visits and hospital stays, but it does not pay for long-term services like nursing home care, in-home assistance, or adult day programs, the kinds of support that many older adults need to remain safe, healthy, and independent. That's where Medicaid comes in. It is the largest payer of long-term care in the country.



For older adults who have exhausted their savings or outlived their retirement, Medicaid is often the only option. It covers the care that allows people to remain in their homes or access the residential services they need with dignity. Lutheran Services in America members provide that care every day, from home health support to full-time skilled nursing.

When Medicaid is cut or restricted, the impact is immediate. Older adults lose access to essential services. Families are forced to take on impossible caregiving roles. And providers are pushed to the brink. Medicaid is not a luxury for older adults; it is essential infrastructure that allows them to age with support and respect.

Q5: Is Medicaid financially sustainable?

Medicaid is one of the most efficient public programs in the country. It has low administrative costs and strong oversight at both the state and federal levels. For Lutheran Services in America members, Medicaid is cost-effective and allows us to deliver high-quality, nonprofit care in communities large and small.

Q6: What happens when Medicaid is cut?

When Medicaid is cut, the costs don't go away, they shift. Families pay out of pocket, hospitals absorb the strain, and states are left to cover services they can't afford. The idea that states can take on this burden is simply false.

Lutheran Services in America members see the fallout right away. Staff are lost. Programs close. People go without care until a crisis hits. In rural areas, one closure can eliminate access for an entire region. In cities, older adults may lose the services that help them stay safely at home.

Federal cuts to Medicaid push essential services to the brink. Community-based providers are forced to scale back or shut down altogether. These decisions weaken the entire system of care that communities rely on, resulting in people moving away from their own communities (hometowns) and away from family and friends.

Q7: What role do nonprofit and faith-based providers play in the Medicaid system?

Lutheran Services in America members are mission-driven providers who reinvest every dollar back into care, not profits. We often serve people who have nowhere else to turn, in both urban and rural areas. Medicaid is what allows us to keep those doors open and provide services tailored to the unique needs of each community.

But we don't do this work alone. Our members often combine Medicaid funding with charitable contributions, philanthropic support, and local partnerships. That makes Medicaid one of the most effective public-private investments we have. It allows trusted, community-based organizations to stretch every dollar further and deliver care that is responsive, accountable, and rooted in local relationships. This is a smart model and one worth protecting.

Q8: How does Medicaid impact caregivers?

Many caregivers, especially those caring for aging parents or children with special needs, rely on Medicaid-funded services for support. Others are direct care workers who themselves qualify for Medicaid because of low wages. Supporting Medicaid means supporting the caregiving backbone of this country, something Lutheran organizations have done for generations.



Q9: What about fraud and abuse in Medicaid?

Like any large system, Medicaid needs strong oversight, and it has it. But when we talk about cutting \$880 billion, we're not talking about cracking down on fraud. We're talking about eliminating care for people who need it. Lutheran Services in America believes in accountability, but we also believe that you don't fix a system by hollowing it out.

Q10: What's wrong with adding work requirements to Medicaid?

The majority of adults on Medicaid are already working, caregiving, going to school, or living with health conditions that make it hard to work full-time. Work requirements may sound reasonable in theory, but in practice they punish people for navigating complex lives. People lose coverage not because they're unwilling to work, but because of paperwork errors, missed deadlines, or job instability. We've seen caregivers, home health aides, and hourly workers lose their access despite doing everything right.

These policies create more bureaucracy without improving care or accountability. For Lutheran Services in America members, the bottom line is clear: work requirements don't help people get healthy, they make it harder for them to stay healthy by adding paperwork and other administrative tasks for employers that also go uncompensated.

Q11: Why is Medicaid important to rural communities?

In many rural areas, Medicaid is the main source of funding for local hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes. When that funding disappears, those services often shut down. Lutheran Services in America members serve in some of the most rural parts of the country, where Medicaid is the difference between access and abandonment.

Q12: Why should people who don't use Medicaid care about it?

Medicaid is one of the quiet foundations of community stability. It keeps hospitals open, supports local health care jobs, and ensures that children, older adults, and people with disabilities can get the care they need before a crisis hits.

You may not use Medicaid, but chances are someone in your neighborhood, your workforce, or your family does. When Medicaid is strong, children stay in school, older adults remain in their homes, and caregivers can keep working. When it's cut, those systems begin to fail and the costs show up in overwhelmed emergency rooms, school absences, and lost productivity.

This program is not just for "other people." It's a pillar of public health and economic stability. Everyone has a stake in protecting it.

Here We Stand Campaign – Spokesperson Q&A

Q13: What is the purpose of the Here We Stand campaign?

The purpose of Here We Stand is to speak with one voice about the value of Medicaid and the people it serves. As Lutheran Services in America members, we see the human impact of policy decisions every day — and we know what's at stake when Medicaid is weakened. This campaign gives us a shared platform to elevate those stories, push back against misinformation, and call on leaders to protect the care systems that hold communities together.



Q14: What does the tagline “Here We Stand. For people. For care. For Medicaid.” actually mean?

Here We Stand is a statement of conviction rooted in who we are as a faith-based network. It reflects a long Lutheran tradition of public witness, where people of faith have stepped forward to speak clearly and act boldly when lives and dignity are on the line.

Here We Stand is not about slogans. It is about showing up for people. We stand for the individuals and families our members serve every day. We stand for care that is compassionate, community-based, and focused on what helps people thrive. And we stand for Medicaid because it is the foundation that makes this work possible across the country.

Q15: Why is Lutheran Services in America leading this effort?

Lutheran Services in America represents over 300 nonprofit and faith-based providers across the country. Our members are embedded in their communities, delivering care, building trust, and serving people who often have no other options. That gives us a unique voice in this conversation. We’re not here to score political points. We’re here to protect what works and speak up for the people we serve.

Q16: How is this campaign different from other advocacy efforts?

Here We Stand is different because it is not a short-term reaction or a one-page policy memo. It is a long-term commitment to speak with moral clarity about what is at stake for the people and communities we serve.

This campaign is grounded in shared values and lived experience. It gives Lutheran Services in America members a consistent, coordinated way to advocate, whether they are in a meeting with a legislator, writing an op-ed, or sharing a message on social media. It is a unified voice backed by local credibility, built to last beyond one legislative cycle.

Q17: Why is it important to speak with one voice right now?

Here We Stand is about more than messaging. It’s about unity in a moment of risk. The people who depend on Medicaid are facing real threats and when Lutheran Services in America members speak together, we carry the credibility of thousands of frontline workers and community leaders. Speaking with one voice helps cut through the noise, combat misinformation, and remind policymakers that we are not alone, and we are not silent.

Q18: Why does storytelling matter in this moment?

Facts and data are important, but stories change hearts and minds. Here We Stand helps lift the voices of caregivers, parents, older adults, and community leaders who know what’s at stake when Medicaid is cut. These stories make the impact real. They remind policymakers that behind every budget decision is a person, a family, and a future.

Q19: How does this campaign connect to Lutheran faith and values?

Our commitment to stand for people, for care, and for Medicaid is rooted in Lutheran values of service, dignity, and community. We are called to care for those who are vulnerable, to protect systems that promote justice and healing, and to speak out when lives are at risk. This campaign



reflects that responsibility. It puts our mission into action not just through the services we deliver, but through the voice we bring to the national conversation.

Q20: What do you say to those who think this is too political?

We understand that health care can be a politically charged issue, but Here We Stand is not about partisanship. It's about people. Medicaid has long had bipartisan support because it works and because the need for care crosses every district, every state, and every ideology. We're not choosing sides. We're standing for what we know is right, based on what our members see every single day.

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