

Lutheran Services in America—one of the nation's largest nonprofit networks—draws upon a century-long, faith-based, mission-driven tradition of service. Through a nationwide network of nearly 300 independent health and human service providers, it operates in 46 states, Washington, DC, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, reaching more than 7 million people annually—1 in 50 people in America—across 1,400 communities with the support of over 250,000 employees. Medicaid plays an essential role in supporting children and families, older adults, people with disabilities, and others, including in rural communities, as our members work with all these constituencies of Medicaid.



The Issue

- Medicaid covers cost-effective care for nearly 80 million people, including:
 - 7.2 million older adults, including 756,000 in nursing homes
 - 36.8 million children
 - 14 million rural residents
 - 8.4 million adults with disabilities.
- Seventy-eight percent (78%) of people say that providing Medicaid to people in need is the right thing to do.
- Even before recent cuts, Medicaid reimbursement lagged behind actual costs—for example, covering only about 82¢ of every dollar spent on nursing home care since 2019.
- Along with charitable fundraising to fill gaps, nonprofit providers in our network need reliable, adequate reimbursement to ensure stable, high-quality care.
- Medicaid prevents escalating systemwide costs by keeping people healthy; cutting eligibility and funding will negatively impact access to care, staffing and community stability.
- Across our network, workforce shortages—driven in part by inadequate reimbursement—are the top barrier to ensuring access to quality care, threatening services for millions who rely on Medicaid.

Our Priorities

We urge Congress to increase access to care by strengthening Medicaid and ensuring faith-based nonprofit providers can continue meeting growing health, mental health and social needs. Our nonprofit model reinvests resources directly into care, staff and community services. We support policies that:

- Improve coverage and access to care by restoring and expanding Medicaid funding and coverage, including for the healthcare workforce and care coordination.
- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates to reflect the true cost of care and reward high-performing providers.
- Build a sustainable workforce and address shortages by reducing regulatory burdens, investing in training and expanding pathways for internationally educated workers.

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

Lutheran Services in America asks lawmakers to take the following actions:

► Improve Coverage and Access

- Support [The Protecting Healthcare and Lowering Costs Act of 2025 \(S. 2556 /H.R. 4849\)](#), which repeals the health care provisions of H.R. 1 and restores critical funding to prevent millions (including members of the direct care workforce) from losing their health care.
- Improve coverage for case management and care coordination to address social needs: States and Medicaid MCOs recognize that improving health outcomes and controlling costs means addressing the full spectrum of patient needs. Effective care coordination coverage is needed to ensure access to holistic health needs via housing, transportation, nutrition, and more.
- Improve health/rural health access: Increase investment in and expand access to telehealth and enabling technology to ensure access and coverage of care.



Here We Stand Principles in Action.

- Medicaid is more than a policy. It is at the core of health care in this country.
- Medicaid works, keeping people healthier and preventing higher costs for everyone.
- We're using Medicaid efficiently and effectively, and we have the results to prove it.
- We reinvest in care, not profits, and communities are stronger for it.
- We should make Medicaid stronger, not smaller.

► Ensure a Sustainable Health Workforce

- Support [The Healthcare Workforce Innovation Act \(H.R. 935\)](#), which supports workforce training and education initiatives across health professions.
- Support [The Dignity Act of 2025 \(H.R. 4393\)](#), which expands the pool of legally authorized workers through visa modernization and per-country cap reforms.
- Reintroduce The Ensuring Seniors' Access to Quality Care Act, which allows skilled nursing facilities to resume Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training after fixing non-patient-care-related infractions, removing an unnecessary two-year penalty that blocks workforce development.

► Ensure Adequate Reimbursement

- Increase reimbursement rates to reflect the true cost of care and reward high-performing providers.
- Support [The HCBS Relief Act of 2025 \(S. 2076/H.R. 4029\)](#), which temporarily boosts the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for certain approved home- and community-based services in FY2026-FY2027.

For more information, contact
advocacy@lutheranservices.org

Explore our interactive member map at lutheranservices.org