Medicaid Empowers Arizona Work

Medicaid has been a successful federal-state partnership for over 50 years. Known in Arizona as AHCCCS, Medicaid provides affordable health coverage for 2 million adults, children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Most people who are covered by Medicaid have incomes below 133% of the federal poverty line, for a family of three, less than $26,000 in annual income.

Medicaid Helps Families Work

Untreated illness makes it hard to work. A growing body of research shows that affordable healthcare helps Medicaid members maintain employment.

- Medicaid members make up the backbone of our economy such as food service, construction, and retail workers – jobs that typically don’t offer health insurance [Urban Institute, 2017].
- 79% of AHCCCS members in Arizona live in households with at least one full time (66%) or part time (13%) worker [Kaiser Family Foundation, 2015].
- Health insurance helps to protect families from personal bankruptcy and debt. Medical debt is the leading cause of personal bankruptcy for US families [Medical Debt as a Cause of Consumer Bankruptcy, Main Law Review, 2015].

While cutting Medicaid may look like lower spending, stripping healthcare away from Arizonans ends up racking up expenses on the back end.

- Children who have Medicaid miss fewer days of school, graduate at higher rates, earn better incomes, and pay more taxes as adults [National Bureau of Economic Research, 2014].
- Being healthy enough to work is critical to self-reliance. Medicaid coverage for adults is associated with better medication adherence, increased screening for and detection of diabetes, more regular treatment of chronic conditions, and improved health [JAMA Internal Medicine, August 2016].
- Arizona hospitals paid $158 million less in uncompensated care from 2014 to 2016, when AHCCCS restored coverage to childless adults [Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, 2016].

Medicaid Supports our State Economy

Medicaid supports our economy, our schools, and jobs by bringing billions of our federal tax dollars back into our state. Two-thirds of every dollar spent in Arizona on Medicaid is from the federal budget. [AHCCCS, 2016]

- A 2017 study by the ASU WP Carey School of Business estimated that losing federal dollars associated with Medicaid expansion and the ACA Marketplace would wipe out 62,000 Arizona jobs in the first year.
- About half of those jobs lost would be in the health care sector – our fastest growing employment sector [ASU WP Carey School of Business, 2017].
- The federal partnership for AHCCCS allows the state budget to focus more on K-12 education. In addition, Arizona schools counted on $27 million in federal Medicaid funding for students with disabilities and learning challenges last year [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2017].