



Protecting and Strengthening Medicaid

Fact Sheet

NDSS supports protecting, strengthening, and expanding Medicaid so that it can better serve individuals with Down syndrome and the broader disability community. Below are key facts about the Medicaid program and individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities:

- Medicaid covers **17 million older adults and people with disabilities**.
- Medicaid is the **primary insurance** for the majority of individuals with Down syndrome.
- Medicaid is the country's **only payer for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)**. Over 7.8 million individuals rely on Medicaid to receive the vital services HCBS provides such as personal care, therapy, job coaching, and assistive technology to support independent living.
- Recent polling from KFF shows that a **large majority of the American public**, including the majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, have a **favorable opinion of Medicaid**. 46% of Americans across all political ideologies say the government is not spending enough on Medicaid.
- According to the Modern Medicaid Alliance, 88% of voters say it's important to have a strong, sustainable Medicaid program in the United States, 76% have a favorable view of Medicaid, and **67% oppose cutting funding for Medicaid**.
- Over **700,000 people with disabilities are on waiting lists** for services they are eligible for. Increased investments in Medicaid could help these Americans get the services they need.
- Medicaid is a lifeline for children with disabilities. Because of Medicaid's **comprehensive Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment benefit** for children and youth under age 21, most children and youth can receive services in their own homes, with their families.
- Medicaid **covers nearly half of all children** with special health care needs.

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