

# **Key Issues in Medicaid: What State Policymakers Need to Know**

**Medicaid 101 Policy Academy**  
The Council on State Governments  
Sept. 18, 2023

# Four key Medicaid priorities



- 1 **Unwinding** from the public health emergency's continuous coverage requirement
- 2 Meeting the **behavioral health needs** of members
- 3 Improving **maternal health**
- 4 Advancing consumer choice in **long-term services and supports**



## *MEDICAID:*

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*Who it serves and its  
role in our fragmented  
health care system*



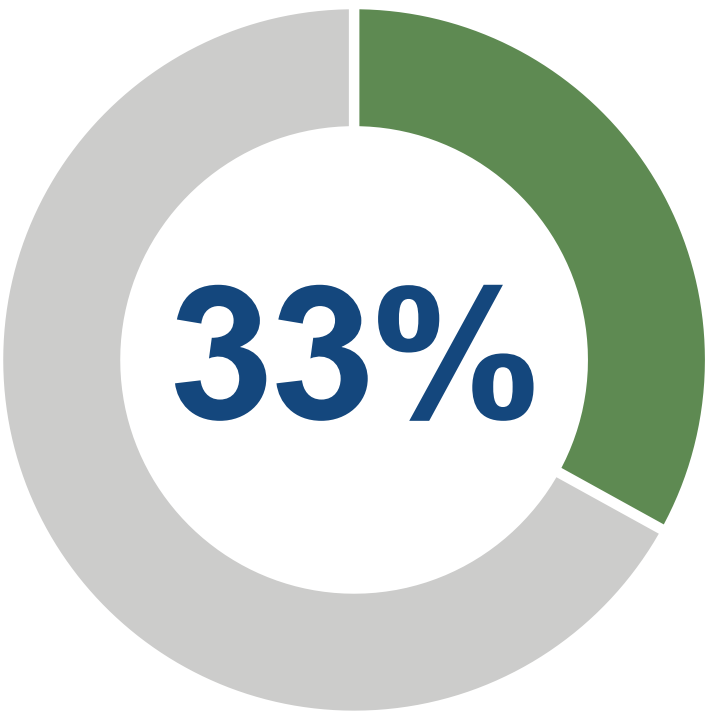
**1 in 5**  
**people use Medicaid for their health insurance**



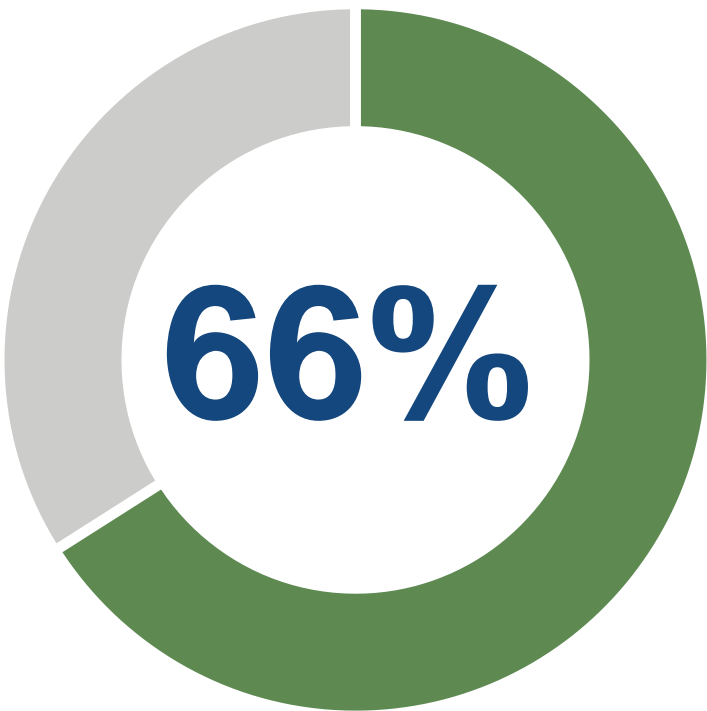
**Children, Pregnant Women, Older Adults, People with Disabilities, People with Low Incomes, People Who Need Nursing Home Care, People Who Need In-home Supports**

# MEDICAID: *Federal/State Partnership*

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**\$259 Billion**  
**State Partnership (2022)**



**\$540 Billion**  
**Federal Partnership (2022)**

# MEDICAID: *Medicaid funds in health care*

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- **\$1 in \$6 spent on health care**
- **\$1 in \$2 spent on long term care**



# MEDICAID: *People Like Medicaid*

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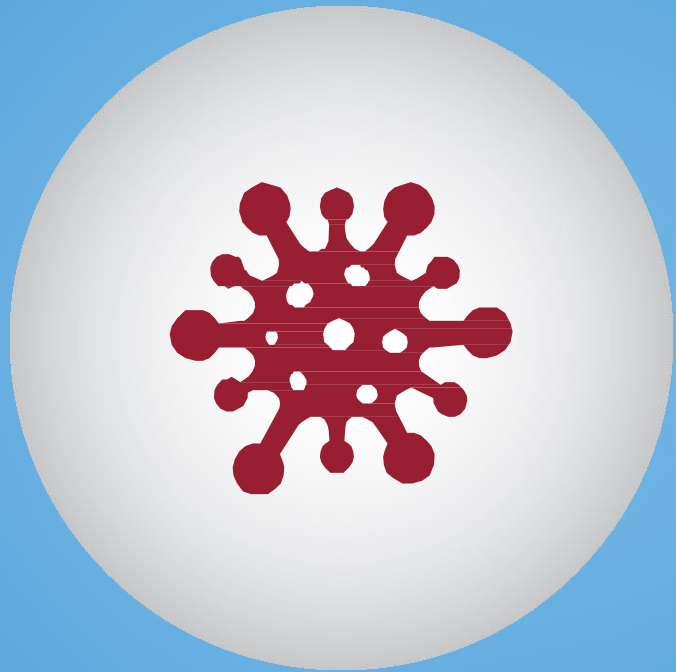
**60%**

**have a connection to Medicaid**



**75%**

**view the program favorably**



***MEDICAID:***

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***Unwinding continuous  
coverage***





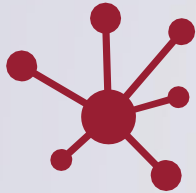
## 74 million

Pre-pandemic enrollment

## 95 million

Continuous enrollment

### *Medicaid Added:*



**Flexibilities**



**Focus on disparities**



**Telehealth**



**COVID testing sites**



**COVID vaccine sites**



**Federal dollars for  
health care**



## Phase 1:

- Seeking federal policy clarity
- Executing operational plans
- Communications push

## Phase 2:

- Issue spotting and course correction
- Communicating progress and challenges
- Navigating public scrutiny
- Responding to extrinsic realities (debt ceiling, severe weather events, recession)
- Making budget, service, and staffing projections in the context of evolving redetermination process

## Phase 3:

- Assessing delivery system and financial impacts
- Determining “new normal” for caseloads, enrollment & staffing
- Understanding needs of the population
- Postmortem of lessons learned



**65%**

**still don't know they can  
become ineligible**



**50%**

**have never been through  
routine eligibility checks**



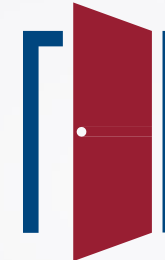
**1. Unprecedented levels  
of outreach**



**2. No one data point tells  
the story**



**3. Maximizing Medicaid's  
protective features**



**4. Medicaid is always open**



## *MEDICAID:*

*Meeting the behavioral  
health needs of  
members*





## **Nation's largest payer of behavioral health services.**

Nearly 4 in 10 nonelderly adults covered by Medicaid had a mental health or substance use disorder in 2020.



## **Key to addressing children and youth mental health.**

Medicaid and CHIP insure 27 million children. Children and youth are experiencing increasing mental health needs. Nearly 1 in 3 teen girls seriously considered attempting suicide in 2021.



**Strengthening the crisis continuum.** Medicaid is helping strengthen the crisis system that serves all Americans, building on the work of 988.



**Making behavioral health services more accessible,** such as by expanding availability of behavioral health services in primary care settings, providing care in new ways (e.g., telehealth), and leveraging peers.



**Moving upstream to support child and youth wellbeing,** particularly for children with most complex needs who are often involved in multiple systems. School-based services, child-focused crisis services, and caregiver supports are three common strategies.



## *MEDICAID:*

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*Improving maternal  
health and reducing  
disparities*







**Maternal and infant mortality in the U.S. is higher than peer countries.** Over 80 percent of pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. are preventable, according to the CDC.



**Medicaid is responsible for 4 in 10 births in the country,** making it a key lever for policymakers to improve birth outcomes



**Medicaid plays a key role in the post-partum period,** when maternal deaths often occur and individuals are heightened risk. Almost all Medicaid programs have extended (or plan to extend) Medicaid to 12-months post-partum.

- 1 Reducing fragmentation and smoothing transitions,** especially between primary care providers, OBGYNs, and pediatricians. Some strategies include leveraging community health workers or creating financial incentives for smooth transitions.
- 2 Addressing mistrust in the health care system.** Strategies include engaging members in program and policy design and leveraging new provider types, like doulas and midwives.
- 3 Improving behavioral health of pregnant and post-partum individuals.** Strategies include connecting individuals to treatment early in the prenatal period, using dyadic care in the post-partum period, and home visiting models.



## *MEDICAID:*

*Advancing consumer  
preference in long-term  
services and supports*



## Medicaid, not Medicare, is the pillar of the nation's long-term care system



**Two-thirds** of elderly adults and people with disabilities use Medicaid for in-home or nursing facility care.



Medicaid is responsible for **half** of the nation's spending on long-term care.

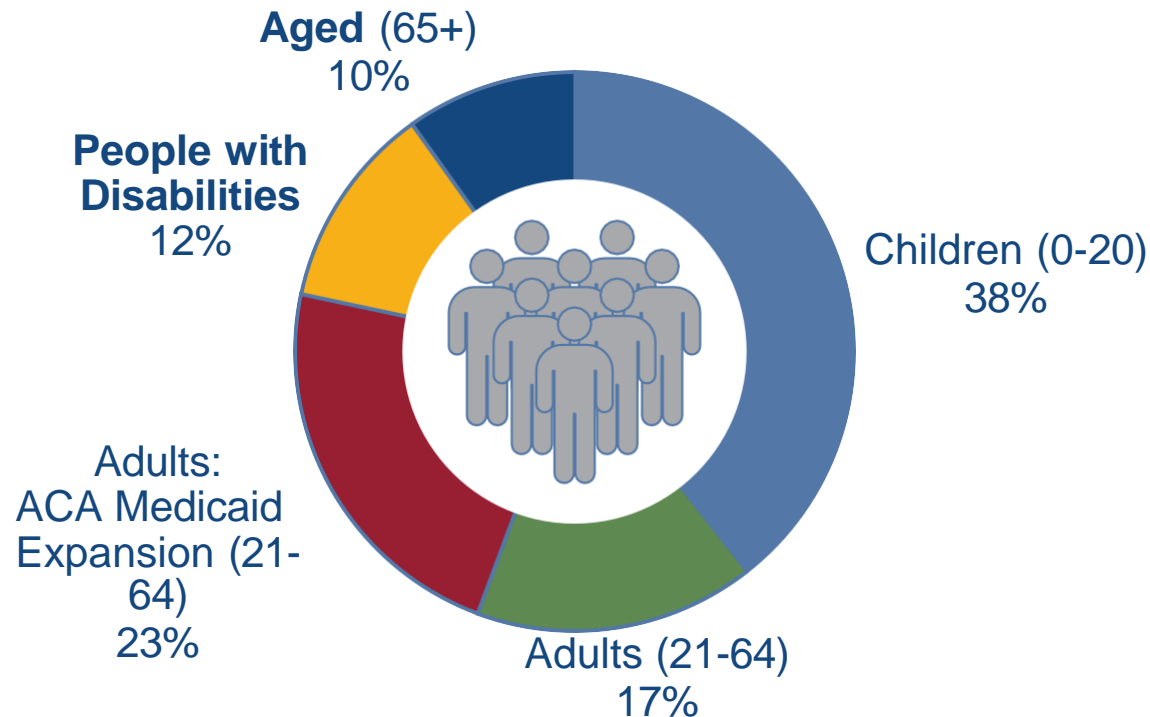


Medicaid allows millions of individuals with disabilities **to live safely in the home and community**. It provides services supports that are tailored to each individual's unique needs, like in-home aides, medically tailored meals, and supported employment, among many others.

# Older adults and individuals with disabilities account for 22% of enrollees but 54% of costs

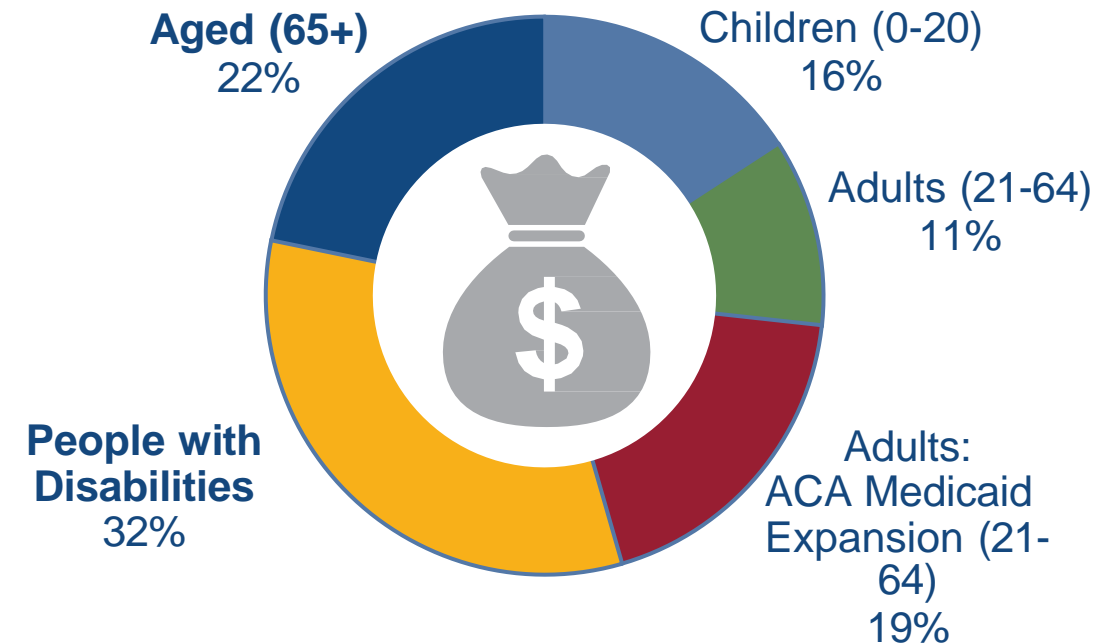
## Total Enrollment

77.8 million in 2020

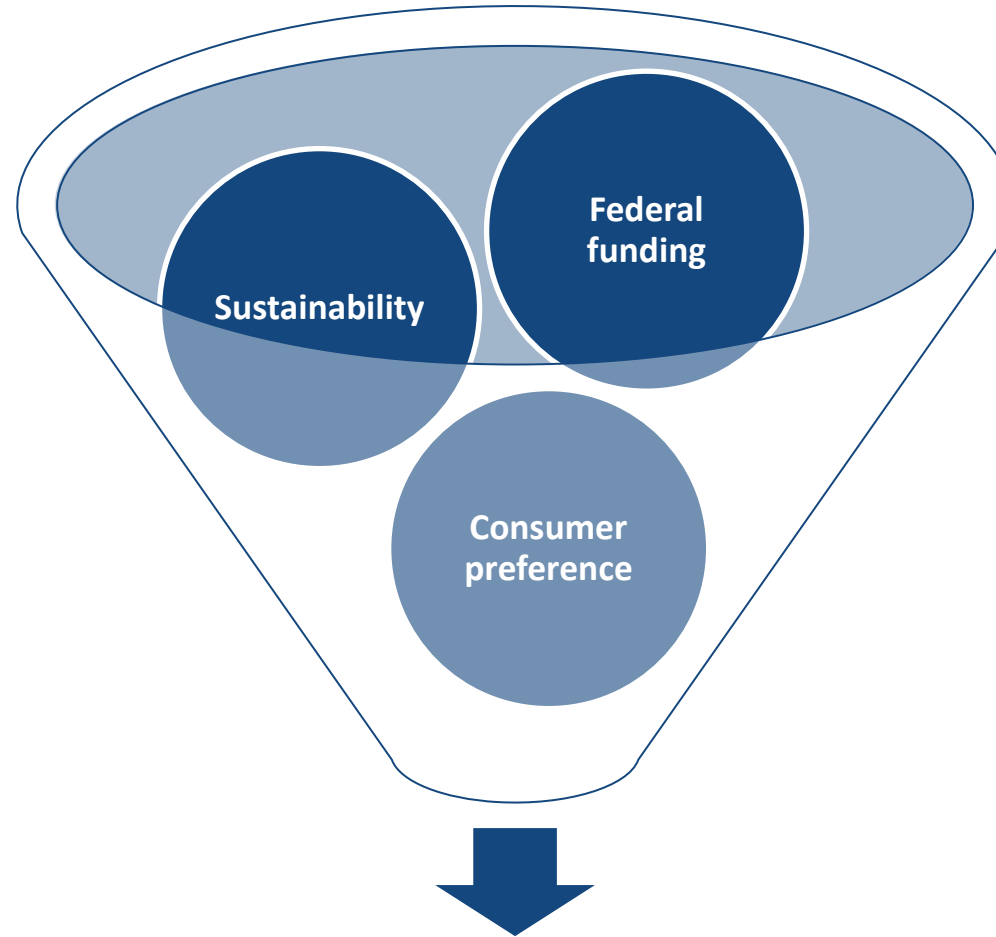


## Total Expenditures

\$666.3 billion in 2020



# A rare convergence of drivers



**Long-term care transformation**

# Wrap up: Four Key Medicaid Priorities



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