

Individuals and Families:
**LET YOUR ELECTED
OFFICIALS KNOW . . .**

“MY MEDICAID MATTERS”

Describe why the Medicaid program is important to you and your family.

“CUTTING MEDICAID HURTS PEOPLE”

Describe what would happen to you or your family if you lost your Medicaid benefits.

“IT HURTS BUSINESS, TOO”

For every \$1 cut from Medicaid almost \$4 of business activity is reduced.

“PROTECT THE MEDICAID PROGRAM”

Ask Congress, Texas legislators, and policymakers to protect the Medicaid program because it matters to you and millions across the country.

“SLASHING MEDICAID MEANS LOST JOBS”

Cuts eliminate jobs, which will hurt the economy by pulling billions of dollars in health care spending out of our Texas communities.

“MEDICAID HAS BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT”

According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll, 60% of Americans want to maintain Medicaid, and only 13% support cuts to Medicaid.



OUR GOALS

Educate Texans, Texas legislators, policymakers and Congress about the real people whose health, independence, families and jobs are supported by Texas Medicaid: children, mothers, Texans with disabilities, seniors—and the workers and professionals who assist them every day.

Monitor and STOP damaging cuts, block grants, waivers or caps that will harm Texans, our families and our communities.

Advocate for access to decent health care and community-based services and supports.

Tell our leaders that deficit reduction and sustainable budgets MUST use a balanced approach that includes new revenues and does not rely on cuts alone. New revenues in the mix preserves the Medicaid, CHIP and Medicare services and supports that Texans count on.



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**OUTREACH AND
EDUCATION CAMPAIGN**

OUR MISSION

*To inform policymakers and the public about **the benefits of Medicaid** and what could happen to Texans if Medicaid were reduced or eliminated.*



OUR MESSAGE:
MEDICAID MEANS . . .

Health! Medicaid provides hospital, doctor and other health services to low income families, children, people with disabilities, and older Americans.

Independence! Medicaid provides vital home and community-based services that allow seniors and younger people with disabilities to live independently in the community.

Families! Medicaid provides services that support families in caring for their children, including kids with significant disabilities.

Jobs! Medicaid provides vital jobs for direct care workers, therapists, health care professionals and other workers—and it helps them support their families.



BACKGROUND:

What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is a federal-state partnership that provides health care for low-income children and expectant mothers, as well as both basic health care and long term services and supports for people with disabilities and low-income seniors. In 2014, health reform will allow parents of children on Texas Medicaid to get coverage, too (only a few qualify today).

Over 58 million Americans and 3.5 million Texans rely on Medicaid services and supports every day.

What does Medicaid pay for?

Many Texans do not know that Medicaid pays for hospital and physician services; medical and surgical care; nursing facility services; lab and x-ray services; check-ups, dental visits, and vaccines for kids; mental health care, physical and speech therapies; and nurse practitioner services.

It also pays for critical community services and support, like:

Home and community-based Medicaid waiver services; home health; personal attendant services; rehabilitation services and therapies; and other services that allow seniors and people with disabilities to live and receive services in the community.

Prescription medications, optometrist services glasses, prosthetic devices, and other community-based services and supports.

MEDICAID IS MORE THAN JUST HEALTH COVERAGE

Who benefits from Medicaid?

We all know people who benefit from the Medicaid program. For example:

Do you or someone you know use Medicaid long term services and supports to live in the most integrated setting with appropriate services?

Do you or someone you know use Medicaid to cover prenatal care to ensure a healthy pregnancy and baby?

Do you or someone you know have children who are getting the health care they need because of Medicaid or CHIP?

Do you or someone you know work as a direct care attendant, providing critical support services?

How did My Medicaid Matters begin?

On September 21st, 2011, National ADAPT organized the MY MEDICAID MATTERS rally in Washington, D.C., co-sponsored by 94 national organizations. The purpose of the rally was to send a message to the “Super Committee,” Congress and the Obama administration that Medicaid is a critical safety net program for millions of Americans.

In Texas, over 35 organizations organized by ADAPT of Texas, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Texas Advocates and The Arc of Texas, held a press conference that same day to support the goals of the rally in Washington. Today, our Texas organizations continue to work together to provide a unified voice in support of a strong Medicaid program that will continue to meet millions of Texans’ needs.

What’s happening in Washington & Austin?

Deficit reduction remains a Washington focus, although the Congressional “Super Committee” was unsuccessful in its attempt to reduce the federal budget by \$1.5 trillion over the next ten years. Though Medicaid funding was not part of the automatic cuts that may occur, Medicaid funding cuts and program restructuring remain on the table. The reason for this threat is that many members of Congress refuse to consider any increases in revenues, which will be necessary to fund the needs of the growing population of those eligible for Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare services. All of these programs are vulnerable to deep cuts that would harm people by reducing critical health care and community-based services and supports.

In Austin, the 2011 Texas Legislature imposed roughly \$2 billion in Medicaid-CHIP cuts and left the Medicaid program underfunded by another \$5 billion, which will have to be made up in 2013—or the program will be cut even more deeply. Law-makers also passed laws proposing major restructuring of Medicaid. One new law directs Texas to seek a capped-funding federal Medicaid waiver, which would exempt the state from minimum standards in federal law regarding whom Medicaid covers and what health care they receive.

The second law directs Texas state government to seek permission from Congress and the President to “opt out” of Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP, and to convert all of Texas’ federal health care funds into a single block grant based on 2010 funding levels. If Congress approved this, it could **end** federal rules about which children, seniors, pregnant women, and Texans with disabilities get covered, along with rules guaranteeing basic standards for health care benefits.