

Speaker Ryan's *Better Way* Initiative Would Gut Medicaid

Speaker Ryan's *Better Way* plan means fewer low-income Americans would have health care coverage and that those were covered will pay more out-of-pocket for their care.

What is Ryan's Plan?

Ryan's plan is to cut Medicaid funding by nearly a \$1 trillion over 10 years. Beneficiaries would lose the guaranteed right to all medically-necessary services. Ryan would instead make Medicaid a block grant or a per-capita cap program. States would be given a smaller and fixed amount of money to provide health care coverage for low-income citizens of all ages. With less funding states are expected to limit enrollment or increase cost sharing for individuals.

Who is at risk if Medicaid is cut?

More than 72.5 million people receive Medicaid benefits, including 30.3 million children, 10.3 million people with disabilities and 5.8 million seniors.

Long-term Care and Support Services

Medicaid pays for 61% of all nursing home and home care services. A year of nursing home care can cost as much as \$90,000, making Medicaid an essential program for older Americans. For 2017, seniors with incomes up to \$26,460 for an individual may qualify to receive these benefits.

Cost-sharing Assistance for Low-income Seniors

The Medicaid program also helps low-income seniors pay the monthly Medicare Part B premiums of \$121.80 through the Medicare Savings Program (MSP), based on income.

Medicaid Expansion

Since 2014, Medicaid expansion in 32 states has enabled more than 12 million Americans to obtain health care coverage. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) raised the income eligibility to include individuals with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$16,400 for individual and \$33,600 in 2017) for a family of four.