

Protect Alaskans. Preserve Medicaid.



Medicaid is woven into Alaska's economy, our healthcare system, and our daily lives.

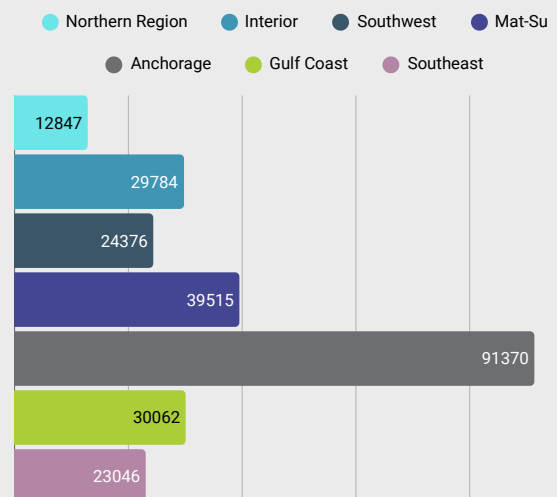
Over 250,000 Alaskans are covered under Medicaid, with 72,000 individuals eligible through Medicaid expansion. An estimated 23,000 Alaskans obtain insurance coverage through the federal marketplace using enhanced tax credits.

This means that about **100,000 Alaskans will be uninsured** if Medicaid expansion is rolled back and the tax credits are not renewed.

If the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Alaska is reduced, Alaska's General Fund budget deficit will see a massive swing and the private insurance market in our state will be completely destabilized from loss of the enhanced tax credits and reinsurance support, causing premiums to skyrocket.

Simply put, a significant and swift Federal pullback in Medicaid spending would be devastating for Alaska.

252,107 Alaskans rely on Medicaid, DenaliCare, and/or DenaliKidCare to access healthcare.



Medicaid in Alaska Dashboard
State of Alaska Department of Health, September 2024

Who does Medicaid serve?

252,107
Alaskans

- [Pregnant mothers rely on Medicaid](#) for prenatal care, childbirth and delivery services, and extended postpartum care.
- [Half of the children in Alaska](#) are born with Medicaid as a payor. Medicaid covers preventative services, physical, mental, dental, and developmental needs for children (0-18yrs.)
- Nearly all enrollees are [low-income, working individuals](#) without other insurance options.
- Medicaid is vital for [sustaining rural healthcare](#), preventing service cuts or closures that would severely impact rural communities.
- Medicaid ensures millions of Americans — including veterans — have [access to mental healthcare and substance abuse services](#).
- Medicaid is critical for [elderly and disabled nursing home residents](#) because the U.S. does not have a comprehensive program to pay for long-term care services.

Work Requirements Don't Work

If Congress implements work requirements, the damage will be severe in Alaska, especially in rural areas where employment and educational opportunities are often scarce.

Verifying work status would not only impose significant costs on the state but also create additional burdens for working Alaskans already navigating lengthy call center delays and inconsistent support from public assistance agencies.

In 2019, state legislation seeking to implement Medicaid work requirements was introduced in the Alaska State Legislature. It was opposed and ultimately rejected, based on similar concerns.

Alaska's seasonal industries, such as tourism and fishing, further complicate the issue. In many regions, individuals may work full-time—or more—for several months, followed by extended periods of layoff. Despite putting in substantial hours over the course of a year, these workers often lose access to health coverage due to the irregular nature of their employment.

We urge Congress to reject reductions to the Medicaid program that would not only strip access to healthcare from some of the most vulnerable populations but also destabilize hospitals and health systems, leading to a loss of services that would impact patients and communities nationwide.



Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association *Advancing Healthcare for Alaska*

For over 70 years, the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) has served as a non-profit trade association representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and a growing number of healthcare partners across the continuum of care.

AHHA supports members in their roles as community providers and essential employers in cities, towns, and villages across Alaska.

Our mission is to advance the shared interests of Alaska healthcare to build an innovative, sustainable system of care for all Alaskans.

What We Do:

- Lead advocacy efforts in support of policy and legislation that impact members.
- Bring together members and stakeholders for education, training, and collaborative work.
- Provide funding, research, and other collateral in support of member facilities.



Take Action
to protect Alaskans

- Oppose block grants.
- Oppose per capita caps.
- Seek opportunities to increase FMAP, not reduce it.
- Maintain and protect current eligibility criteria, including for the Medicaid Expansion population.
- Oppose Medicaid Work Requirements.