



# Modern Medicaid ALLIANCE

## **FAST FACTS ON MEDICAID IN RURAL COMMUNITIES**

*Americans living in rural communities face challenges that can make it difficult to access health care. Medicaid serves an important role by providing coverage for high-quality health services in rural areas. Below are some fast facts about the program's impact on rural communities from the Modern Medicaid Alliance (MMA).*

- **Rural residents are more likely to report poorer physical and mental health** – People in rural areas have higher rates of cigarette smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity.<sup>1</sup>
- **People living in rural areas face significant barriers to accessing care** – Health care provider shortages, recent closures of rural hospitals, and long distances to health care sites make it difficult to access care.<sup>1</sup>
- **Medicaid plays an important role in providing coverage and reducing the number of uninsured Americans in rural areas** – Rural areas with Medicaid expansion saw 5 percent faster growth of people covered, and the likelihood of being uninsured was cut in half compared to rural areas without Medicaid expansion.<sup>1</sup>
- **Medicaid provides needed coverage for primary care and other health services to millions** – 23 percent of adults and 47 percent of children in rural areas are enrolled in Medicaid.<sup>2</sup>
- **Medicaid delivers high-quality care to beneficiaries** – Medicaid beneficiaries are more likely to report satisfaction with their care compared to those who are uninsured or those with private coverage.<sup>3</sup>
- **Medicaid beneficiaries in rural areas have less medical debt compared to uninsured Americans** – Beneficiaries can afford health care, making them less likely to delay needed treatments because they are worried about being able to afford it.<sup>3</sup>
- **Medicaid financing helps rural hospitals and other health care sites provide care in rural communities** – Together, Medicaid and Medicare account for more than half of rural hospital revenues. Medicaid alone supports nearly half of publicly provided mental health services.<sup>4</sup>
- **Medicaid helps support jobs and generate income in local economies** – Hospitals and the jobs Medicaid supports account for as much as 20 percent of local economies.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-role-of-medicaid-in-rural-america/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://familiesusa.org/product/cutting-medicaid-would-hurt-rural-america#table1>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-works-for-people-in-rural-communities>

<sup>4</sup> <http://files.cfra.org/pdf/Medicaid.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://familiesusa.org/product/cutting-medicaid-would-hurt-rural-america>