

# Medicaid: Frequently Asked Questions

**Medicaid is an essential safety net—there for you when you need it—because no matter how prepared you are, you never know when you or your family may face hard times. Medicaid provides access to and helps improve the health and financial security of millions of Americans everyday, covering about 1 in 4 Americans.**

**Modern Medicaid Alliance members often hear misconceptions about the Medicaid program. Below, we set the record straight on 6 top questions about the program.**

## 1. Does Medicaid provide access to quality care?

Yes. Medicaid provides millions of Americans with high-quality, affordable health care. [84% of Medicaid enrollees](#) have reported access to the care they need. Studies show that the majority of Medicaid enrollees have regular access to care, and that they are satisfied with their care. Medicaid expansion has been credited with increased access to care, improved quality of care, and ultimately, reduced health care costs.

## 2. Does Medicaid only cover unemployed adults?

No. Medicaid covers Americans from every walk of life, including people in our neighborhoods and communities. People benefiting from Medicaid include millions of children, older adults, people with disabilities, and 2 million veterans. [63% of adults](#) covered by Medicaid do work; those who are not working often face health barriers, such as a disability or a serious medical condition, or have caregiving responsibilities.

## 3. How does Medicaid work?

Medicaid is a joint effort by federal and state governments to cover health care services. The private sector is an essential partner in the success of the Medicaid program. While some states do administer Medicaid directly through state Medicaid agencies, [40 states](#) and the District of Columbia choose to partner with private health insurance providers to deliver Medicaid benefits in what is known as Medicaid managed care. These Medicaid managed care programs - which serve nearly [four out of five](#) Medicaid enrollees - seek to streamline health care and save taxpayers billions of dollars by working directly with doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, pharmacies, and home and community-based service providers.

## 4. Is Medicaid a good deal for taxpayers?

Yes. Medicaid provides comprehensive benefits to eligible Americans with low or no out-of-pocket costs. The program is very efficient, with Medicaid spending [growing slower](#) per enrollee than private insurance. Research shows that Medicaid coverage contributes to the economy by helping enrollees look for work and maintain employment. Medicaid expansion has also had a [positive impact](#) on state budgets and economies.

## 5. What do Americans think of Medicaid?

The vast majority of Americans understand the value that Medicaid provides to individuals, families, and communities. According to [polling](#) from the Modern Medicaid Alliance, 88% of Americans say it's important to have a strong, sustainable Medicaid program. Further, 76% of Americans have a favorable view of Medicaid and 67% oppose cutting funding for Medicaid.

## 6. Are there actions Congress can take to strengthen Medicaid?

Yes. The COVID-19 crisis led to widespread job loss, and the number of Americans who rely on Medicaid has grown. States have recently begun a process to reverify those who are still eligible for the program. A recent analysis concluded that [18 million](#) people could lose access to Medicaid coverage as a result. It is important that this process be conducted in a manner that ensures that people who continue to meet eligibility requirements are not dis-enrolled due to administrative barriers and those who no longer eligible are transitioned to other coverage.