

Medicaid makes a difference for Iowans

We all want Iowa to be the healthiest state in the nation. Medicaid helps us make progress toward that goal. It makes it possible for thousands of low-income Iowa children and adults to get and stay healthy by allowing them to see a doctor when they are sick, get check-ups, buy medications and go to the hospital without fear of choosing between their health and groceries or paying the rent or mortgage.



Medicaid makes a difference for Iowa families

- When families have access to affordable health care through programs like Medicaid, they can get the care they need to ensure small health problems don't become bigger issues. That means healthier, more reliable workers who spend less time at the doctor's office and miss fewer days of work due to illness.
- Medicaid provides health coverage to low-wage workers in jobs without benefits. Medicaid helps these folks—who fill needed roles in farming, construction, food service, home health care and child care—stay healthy so they work regularly, get experience and get ahead.



Medicaid makes a difference for Iowa kids

- At heart, Medicaid is a children's health insurance program. It covers nearly 2 in 5 Iowa kids at some point during the year, including many of most vulnerable. That includes about half of children with special health needs and 100 percent of children in foster care.
- Medicaid helps set kids on a path to be successful adults. Research shows that compared with uninsured peers, children enrolled in Medicaid are more likely to 1) miss fewer days of school; 2) perform better in school; 3) graduate high school and go to college; 4) earn higher wages and become tax-paying adults.
- Services covered by Medicaid are recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics as the services every kid needs to be healthy and thrive.
- Children make up over half of Iowa's traditional Medicaid population, but account for only 19 percent of expenditures. By covering important health services that set children on a path to a healthy adulthood, Medicaid supports the long-term financial stability of our health-care system.



Medicaid is efficient

- Medicaid provides more comprehensive benefits than private insurance at significantly lower out-of-pocket cost. Urban Institute found that it costs about 22 percent less to cover an adult with Medicaid than with private insurance.
- Medicaid's cost per beneficiary have grown more slowly than private-employer coverage, according to the MACPAC.

By committing to provide our children with high-quality health care when they need it, we give them a greater chance of succeeding in life— and that helps all of us, everywhere.