



Q&A: Medicaid

Members of Congress are talking about making major changes to Medicaid by changing federal funding for the program to a block grant or per capita cap. Read the Q&A below for more information on these proposed changes and what they would mean for Ohio.

Question: How does Medicaid work now?

Medicaid provides health coverage to some of the most vulnerable people in Ohio. Older adults in nursing homes, young children, people with disabilities, and those with low-income jobs are often eligible for Medicaid.

The state and federal government work together to run Medicaid. Federal rules require states to cover certain people and provide minimum medical services. In exchange, the federal government pays a certain amount for every dollar a state spends on Medicaid.

Question: What is a Medicaid block grant?

Under a Medicaid block grant, the federal government gives a state a fixed amount of money each year, and the state uses it to provide health services to people the state decides are eligible. The money provided each year may go up or down depending on the budget that Congress passes.

Question: What is a Medicaid per capita cap?

Under a per capita cap, the federal government gives a state a fixed amount of money each year per enrollee, and that money is adjusted each year for inflation. The amount of money may go up or down depending on the budget that Congress passes.

Question: Why are health providers and working people so concerned about block grants and per capita caps?

Either a block grant or a per capita cap will lead to cuts in the Medicaid program. Congress could cut Medicaid every year, and the program would not keep up with health care costs.

When states get less money under a block grant or a per capita cap, states are forced to make cuts to Medicaid. That may mean fewer people are covered, fewer health services are covered, hospitals and doctors are paid less, or all of the above. States could also require waiting lists to get on Medicaid, meaning many people who should be eligible for Medicaid would go without coverage.



Medicaid covers over two million Ohio children, older adults, and people with disabilities.



Block grants give states a fixed amount of Medicaid funding per year.



Per capita caps give states a fixed amount of funding per person.



Either a block grant or a per capita cap will lead to cuts in Medicaid.



UHCANOhio



@UHCANOhio



UHCANOhio.org



info@uhcanohio.org



614-456-0060