

For people with IDD, Medicaid is a lifeline as it pays for support for daily living, medical treatment, therapies, transportation and other supports that make independent living possible.



What is Medicaid?

Medicaid, or Medical Assistance in Minnesota, is public health insurance that helps people with low income, including many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), receive the care and support they need.

It covers about half of Minnesota's long-term care costs, funding not only nursing homes but also services that help people with IDD live and work in their communities.

Medical Assistance is the largest health coverage program in the state, helping keep Minnesota's uninsured rate low and supporting hospitals, clinics and caregivers.

People often confuse Medicaid and Medicare. Medicaid helps people live their everyday lives, while Medicare helps cover their medical needs. For people with IDD, Medicaid is essential as it funds the supports that make independence and inclusion possible.

Who Does Medicaid Affect?

- Medicaid is a lifeline for our most vulnerable neighbors, including people with disabilities, older adults, children and families.
- More than 60% of Medicaid spending goes toward services for people with disabilities or those over 65, even though they make up only 14% of enrollees. That funding supports the care and community programs that help people with IDD live safely and independently.
- Medicaid also shapes the future of Minnesota's children, covering about four in ten kids and nearly a third of all births. Children who have access to Medicaid grow up healthier, stay in school longer and earn more as adults.
- Medicaid funds mental health care and substance use treatment, covering one in five mental health services and half of addiction treatments statewide.



The Challenge

Disability services are falling behind. Rates haven't kept pace with inflation, making it hard for providers to hire and retain staff. Programs are closing, homes sit empty and people are waiting for support. Providers like LBSA have raised wages on their own to keep staff, but without legislative rate increases, it's not sustainable.

Important Note



While the current Medicaid budget cuts aren't directly affecting the people we support right now, it's important to understand their broader impact. The funding we receive is still far from enough, but it's better than losing support altogether. We're deeply concerned for others in our community who are already feeling the strain, and we know future cuts could reach us next if nothing changes.

Action Steps

1. Contact your representative

Send an email or letter to your state lawmakers. Tell them how Medicaid impacts real people and why change is urgent.

2. Talk about it

Keep the Medicaid conversation going with individuals in your network and share why it matters for people with disabilities, families and communities.

3. Learn more!

