

# The Future of Medicaid is in Your Hands

## Medicaid is an important partnership of the federal government and the states

Medicaid represents \$1 out of every \$6 spent on health care in the U.S. and is the major source of financing for states to provide coverage to meet health and long-term needs of low-income populations. Washington State draws down billions in federal Medicaid funding enabling our limited state funds to go farther and serve more people; for most Medicaid the federal government pays 50 cents of every dollar. The newly established Community First Choice program draws down 56 cents on the dollar.

## Medicaid touches all our lives.

We all know people who benefit from our Medicaid programs. They are our neighbors, our families, ourselves. The Medicaid population includes the low income, seniors, and children.

People with developmental disabilities also make up the Medicaid population. Thousands of Washingtonians with DD (adults and children) depend upon Medicaid-funded services.

- Over 44,000 people are clients of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).
- Of those more than 13,000 who receive personal care services through Community First Choice that support them to get out of bed, get dressed, bathe and eat meals.

## It's more than needed health care coverage.

Medicaid funds all DDA supports and services, with a couple of small exceptions, including community living, employment services, and respite. These services allow people to exercise their choice, remain healthy, live in their communities, and stay out of costly institutions.

These are key services that enable people to live every day, be engaged in the community, hold down a job, and live meaningful and productive lives.

## There is talk about significant changes to Medicaid.

There is much talk about changing Medicaid into a Block Grant or a per capita cap. The U.S. House seems to prefer the per capita cap approach with the goal of saving one trillion dollars over 10 years of Medicaid funding.

Under a per capita cap, the Congress would set an initial allotment per state, which is based on expected actual costs. It would then have a preset growth index for the years there after. The proposal gives the state "flexibility" over the Medicaid program and will impact the entitlement nature of Medicaid.

Either a per capita cap approach or the block grant will mean big cuts to Medicaid.

## Let Federal Lawmakers know the importance of Medicaid to you or your loved one.

Share what kinds of services you receive. Ask them questions you need answered, such as:

- *Will my supports be reduced? Will it go away?*
- *Will I have to quit my job to care for my loved one?*
- *Will I (or my loved one) have to move to a facility because community supports are cut?*
- *Will I be put on a waiting list?*
- *Will I now pay for services that were covered in the past, like prescription drugs?*

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