

Healthy People Create a Healthy Economy

As Congress and the Administration work to improve our nation's economy, ensuring access to critical services promotes a strong society - while simultaneously *enabling our critical healthcare sector to provide jobs across our country* - and more broadly helps keep people in our workforce healthy and productive.

Reforms to Medicaid must be viewed as part of the broader economy to ensure we do not reduce critical services or the ability of our country's workforce to serve Americans.

- High-quality mental health and substance use care keep people healthy and able to participate in the workforce.
- Access to community-based mental health and substance use care:
 - **Lowers costs that arise** due to related chronic physical health conditions.¹
 - **Reduces the use of more costly care** such as emergency department visits and hospitalization for psychiatric care.²
 - **Yields cost savings** in other areas such as the criminal justice system.³
 - **Leads to better health and economic outcomes across the lifespan** with research showing children who had access to services provided through Medicaid funding had **higher rates of employment** and earnings as adults.⁴

Medicaid funding helps provide critical resources for the U.S. healthcare sector's workforce to deliver needed care.

- National Council member organizations' provide medically necessary and lifesaving services to their patients, the majority of whom in many cases are Medicaid enrollees (typically 80% of those served in clinics across our country).
- These member clinics on average **employ hundreds of people per clinic**. These clinics and jobs are crucial to state and local economies.

Closing clinics that serve Medicaid enrollees means job loss across states.

- Our members are efficient and run on extremely thin margins - typically on a **1.8-2.8% margin**.
- Many of our member organizations would not be able to serve people after **30 days** if federal funding were reduced.
- If clinics lose revenue from serving and billing people on Medicaid, layoffs would be imminent and vital community clinics would close immediately impacting access to critical mental healthcare services in your community.

“Medicaid is the backbone of the behavioral healthcare system. Reducing FMAP rates, limiting provider taxes, or capping funding would force providers to cut services, lay off staff, or close entirely.” –
Community Mental Health Center in Ohio

¹ <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/chronic-illness-mental-health#:~:text=People%20who%20have%20depression%20are,due%20to%20symptoms%20like%20fatigue>

² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36916061/>

³ https://www.bhecon.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BHECON-Criminal-Justice-Fact-Sheet_Final-APPROVED-1.pdf

⁴ <https://academic.oup.com/restud/article-abstract/87/2/792/5538992?redirectedFrom=PDF>