2021 Legislative Priorities

Protect Medicaid from harmful changes and funding cuts

Medicaid helps Iowans get and stay healthy—so they can work, further their education and take care of their families.

• Oppose barriers that take away health care from Iowans and increase administrative costs to the state, including work reporting requirements and ongoing/repeated verification checks.

Expand access to essential services

To attract and retain providers—and assure availability of the services they provide—Iowa must issue Medicaid reimbursements in a timely manner and at a higher rate.

• Increase provider reimbursement rates for all Medicaid providers and invest in the Medicaid workforce by ensuring that a portion of the rate increase is directed to salary and wages for frontline staff.

• Make temporary changes to telehealth permanent (e.g. continue to reimburse for telephonic services, ensure rate parity, and remove geographic and originating site restrictions).

Promote policies that leverage Medicaid to:

• Support mental health across the lifespan (e.g. increase utilization of evidence-based mental and behavioral health services that are covered by Medicaid).

• Keep moms and babies healthy by expanding coverage from 60-days to 12-months postpartum.

• Support dental health across the lifespan with continued appropriations for programs that support prevention and early identification of oral health issues.

• Be transparent and accountable for equitable service provision and health outcomes within Medicaid by reporting regularly on data by race, ethnicity and home language to hold the state and MCOs administering the program accountable.
Who we are

Medicaid Matters is a diverse coalition of nonprofit organizations from across Iowa partnering to improve Medicaid.

These nonpartisan organizations either:

• Directly serve Iowans who receive health care and supports through Medicaid.
• Advocate for them by developing policy recommendations that protect and strengthen Medicaid.

Values

• Health and well-being are vital to strong and thriving Iowa kids, families and communities.
• Iowans should be able to get the quality health care they need, when they need it.
• Educating and mobilizing community members, stakeholders and policymakers in supporting Medicaid is essential.

Guiding principles

• Medicaid is an effective program and a smart investment in Iowans’ health.
• Medicaid must be protected from harmful changes and funding cuts.
• Medicaid is a safety net — we are all one accident away from needing coverage through Medicaid. Medicaid must work for all Iowans.
• Medicaid must be a top priority for policymakers — cutting is not an option.