

Medicaid: The Foundation of ID/DD Care in America

Medicaid cuts would be devastating to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) and those who care for them. Virtually all 55,000 individuals with disabilities residing in the nation's 5,300 intermediate care facilities (ICF) are on Medicaid. ICFs provide active treatment and services for people with significant support needs. They offer 24-hour supervision, health care, therapies, activities, and training intended to maximize residents' autonomy and independence. Despite the fact that Medicaid is the primary source of funding for these services, policy proposals are calling for cuts. Congress must protect Medicaid from cuts and protect access to care for individuals with ID/DD.

The Funding Crisis: Medicaid Falls Short

Despite being the backbone of ID/DD care, Medicaid reimbursement rates often fall short of covering the actual cost of care. This underfunding has led to longer waitlists for home- and community-based services programs, closures of facilities and reduced access to timely, essential supports individuals so desperately need. The number of ICFs has already declined by more than 16 percent over the last 10 years¹.

Cutting Medicaid funding would be devastating, leading to:

- Reduced access to critical ID/DD services, particularly for those with high medical and behavioral needs.
- Increased burden on unpaid family caregivers.
- Greater strain on state Medicaid budgets, forcing states to limit services.

The Economic and Workforce Impact

Beyond its role in healthcare, **Medicaid-funded ID/DD providers are major economic contributors**. They employ hundreds of thousands of direct support professionals nationwide. Medicaid funding supports jobs, wages, and capital investments, ensuring stability across long term and post-acute care centers and ICFs. When direct support professionals are not available, family members must quit their jobs to stay home and care for their loved one, further hindering the local job market. **Cuts to Medicaid will worsen workforce shortages in ID/DD care, ultimately limiting access to essential skilled care.**

Congress Must Act Now

Medicaid-dependent ID/DD services are at risk. Congress must prioritize the needs of individuals with ID/DD and protect the funding that makes delivering this complex, necessary care possible.

¹Source: CMS QCOR Data