



Medicaid covers US

Virginia

We are your friends, your neighbors, your community.



www.MedicaidCoversUS.org



Sylvia
Petersburg, VA

Introduction

Medicaid is a vital health insurance program for America's families. It allows children to reach their fullest potential, adults to get and stay healthy enough to work and be part of their communities and seniors and people with disabilities to get the care that can help them stay at home. Medicaid can be life-changing and lifesaving.

This storybook was designed to help you meet some of the Americans impacted by Medicaid. You will read stories of adults and children who have received critical and often lifesaving health care through Medicaid, health care providers who see the impact for their patients and adults who could benefit but are currently unable to gain access to health insurance through Medicaid.

Medicaid also helps in the fight against cancer. There are more than 700,000 Americans with a history of cancer currently covered by Medicaid. Among these cancer patients and survivors:¹

- ★ 1 in 12 have served in the US Armed Forces
- ★ 1 in 5 could not afford to see a specialist
- ★ 1 in 10 reported difficulty with activities of daily living
- ★ Majority are non-Hispanic white female
- ★ Majority have at least a high school diploma or equivalent

A majority of Americans support Medicaid.²

- ★ 92% of voters feel Medicaid is an important program
- ★ 76% of voters feel positively about Medicaid including majority of voters across political party ideology feel positively about Medicaid
- ★ 70% of voters believe Medicaid plays a major role in helping low-income families and individuals support themselves financially

Medicaid Covers US is a new project led by the American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) to create a conversation about Medicaid and the role it plays in the health and well-being of our families, friends and communities. We're sharing stories about how having health insurance through Medicaid helps Americans stay healthy, go to work and care for their families. When we ensure that people get the care they need, our communities – our hospitals, schools and economy – thrive. Join the conversation and explore how Medicaid covers US.

1. Analysis provided to ACS CAN by Avalere Health. *Medicaid Covers US: Profiles of Medicaid Enrollees with Cancer*. Analysis performed March 2019. Analysis performed from data collected from Medicaid enrollees over the age of 15.

2. Research provided to ACS CAN by PerryUndem Research/Communication and Bellwether Research & Consulting. The survey was conducted March 15 – 21, 2019 using YouGov's nationally representative panel of 1,000 registered voters 18+ years old.

Debbie Stuart, VA



To learn more, align the camera app on your iPhone or Android with the QR code and follow the pop-up link.

Debbie previously worked as the economic development director of Patrick County in rural, southwestern Virginia. In 2017 the local hospital closed, in part because Virginia had not yet expanded its Medicaid program, which would have reduced uncompensated care. After the closure, Debbie faced a difficult challenge: how to continue to recruit businesses to the area without a hospital in the county.

“If you’re trying to bring businesses in, access to health care is just critical,” Debbie said.

The closure of the only hospital in the county was not just bad for business and the local economy. The closest hospital is about 30 miles away over mostly winding mountain roads. Many residents worry about family and members of the community experiencing a health care emergency. “When mom and dad have grown up here, but the kids don’t live in town anymore, what are they going to do?” Debbie said.

“If you’re trying to bring businesses in, access to health care is just critical.”



Gloria Petersburg, VA



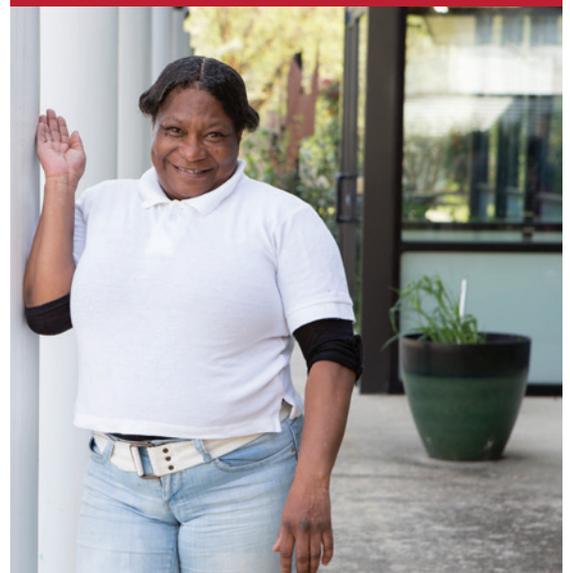
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Gloria has struggled for a long time with her health. She was born with a heart murmur, blood pressure issues, constant bronchitis and was recently diagnosed with glaucoma and cataracts that are getting worse. For years she relied upon emergency care at a hospital because she was uninsured and wasn't able to access the medications or care she needed to manage her conditions.

But when Virginia expanded its Medicaid program, Gloria was able to get the care she needed. She finally had access to the blood pressure medications and inhalers that could keep her out of the hospital.

And now that she has Medicaid, she can treat her eye conditions. "Because of Medicaid, I'll be able to have surgery and see again," she said.

“Because of Medicaid, I'll be able to have surgery and see again.”





Jeanette Stuart, VA

“I’m glad that the expansion of Medicaid will help other rural hospitals in Virginia. But for ours, it was too late.”



▶ To watch full video, align the camera app on your iPhone or Android with the QR code and follow the pop-up link.

Sylvia Petersburg, VA

“When they told me I was approved, I couldn’t believe it. But I knew it was going to be okay. Because of Medicaid, I would be able to get what I needed.”



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Under the Affordable Care Act, 35 states and the District of Columbia have expanded Medicaid to provide affordable coverage to adults with low incomes. In these states, individuals earning less than \$1,500 a month are eligible for health insurance coverage through Medicaid.



Dr. Cole Stuart, VA

“With Medicaid expansion, I think we’ll have a lot of people who will now have access to care who will be able to improve their lives.”

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To read the full stories please visit: [MedicaidCoversUS.org](https://www.MedicaidCoversUS.org)



QR code help:

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Medicaid **covers** US

