

## Keep Illinois Medicaid Strong: Principles for Financial Stability

The Illinois Medicaid program provides life-saving health coverage to nearly 2.7 million low-income children, parents, seniors, and people with disabilities and behavioral health needs, including addiction and mental illness. However, the program faces a \$2.7 billion deficit this year, and legislators are exploring a range of solutions. We all need to ask: How much does each of these “solutions” actually cost us in health and long-term care outcomes and state funds? Our organizations endorse the following principles for stabilizing the Illinois Medicaid program.

**Solutions such as cutting prescription drug coverage, eligibility, or optional services are unacceptable and will drive up long-term state costs.** The services people on Medicaid receive now reduce future state health spending by providing prevention services and early intervention.

**Transformative Medicaid reforms are being implemented but need time to work.** To improve the health and lives of Medicaid recipients while reducing costs, Illinois is contracting with commercial managed care companies and networks of providers to implement robust care coordination models. However, these programs cannot be in place overnight.

**The General Assembly and Governor have underfunded Medicaid for 20 years; a multi-year solution is needed to balance the program budget.** Medicaid reforms enacted in 2011 already establish a decade-long glide path to pay old bills, and this plan should be followed.

**The Medicaid budget cannot be balanced with Medicaid cuts alone. New revenue and savings from legislative changes in other budget areas must be applied to Medicaid.** Medicaid cannot be firewalled from the rest of the state budget; it is an economic engine that supports families, creates jobs, and helps children learn.

### *Supporters (as of 3/28/12)*

AARP Illinois  
Access Living  
AgeOptions  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
American Cancer Society, Illinois Division  
Campaign for Better Health Care  
Citizen Action Illinois  
Chicago ADAPT  
CJE SeniorLife  
Health and Disability Advocates  
Health and Medicine Policy Research Group  
IL Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association  
IL Alliance for Retired Americans  
IL Association of Public Health Administrators  
IL Association of Rehabilitation Facilities  
IL Chiropractic Society  
IL Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
IL Maternal and Child Health Coalition  
IL Society for Advanced Practice Nursing  
IL Partners for Human Service  
IL Public Health Association  
IL Primary Health Care Association  
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights  
New Age Services  
Ounce of Prevention Fund  
Planned Parenthood of Illinois  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana  
SEIU Illinois Council

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