



Medicaid in Illinois

The Backbone of the HIV Response

Why Medicaid Matters for Ending the HIV Epidemic in Illinois

Medicaid is one of the most important public health tools Illinois has to prevent new HIV transmissions, support people living with HIV, and strengthen community-based care across the state. For tens of thousands of Illinoisans, Medicaid is not just health insurance, it is the foundation that makes HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term wellness possible.

Coverage for People Living with HIV in Illinois

Illinois data show approximately 42% - or 18,640 - of people living with HIV in Illinois are enrolled in Medicaid, making it the largest payer for HIV care in the state.

This means without Medicaid coverage, a large portion of the HIV care infrastructure, from medications to clinical visits to wrap-around services, would be underfunded and inaccessible. It would also mean more people will be diagnosed with HIV, moving in the opposite direction of Illinois' goal of ending the HIV epidemic.

Under Threat Due to H.R. 1/One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) - What is at Stake

Signed into law by President Trump on July 4, 2025, H.R. 1 - otherwise known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) - cut Medicaid funding and added eligibility barriers, disrupting Medicaid coverage for hundreds of thousands of Illinois residents, including thousands of people living with and impacted by HIV.

Approximately 270,000 - 500,000 Illinoisans are estimated to lose Medicaid coverage because of H.R. 1. Just under 10,000 people living with HIV in Illinois utilizing Medicaid will experience coverage losses because of the new Work Reporting Requirement and twice a year Medicaid Redetermination process required in H.R. 1.

MEDICAID'S ROLE IN THE HIV RESPONSE

Prevention

Medicaid covers HIV testing, routine clinical care, laboratory services, PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) HIV prevention treatment, and all essential tools for preventing HIV transmission and supporting wellness.

Diagnosis

Early detection through routine or diagnostic HIV screening increases life expectancy and reduces transmission risk. Medicaid coverage makes this possible for many who otherwise lack access.

Treatment & Care

Medicaid pays for antiretroviral therapy (ART), routine medical appointments, HIV and other specialists care, laboratory testing and monitoring, mental health and substance use services, and other supports, all critical for achieving viral suppression and reducing HIV-related morbidity and mortality.

Cuts to Medicaid in H.R. 1 will:

- Increase new HIV transmissions,
- Reverse progress toward viral suppression,
- Strain hospitals, clinics, & community health providers,
- Deepen disparities in care access, and
- Strain other sources of HIV care and prevention, like the Illinois AIDS Drug Assistance Program (Illinois ADAP) and the PrEP4Illinois program.

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What Is Medicaid in Illinois?

Medicaid is a joint federal-state health insurance program that provides comprehensive, affordable coverage to low-income individuals and families, people with disabilities, pregnant people, and many seniors. In Illinois, Medicaid is administered by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). The program covers a significant share of the state's population; roughly 3.4 million people or about 25% of Illinois residents were enrolled in Medicaid in state fiscal year 2024 (SFY2024).

Illinois expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare, significantly increasing health care access for low-income adults. At the end of SFY2024, approximately 770,000 Illinoisans were enrolled in IL Medicaid through the ACA expansion.



44% are children



9% are seniors



13% live in rural areas



7% are adults living with disabilities



13% have three or more chronic conditions

AMONG ALL ILLINOIS MEDICAID ENROLLEES:

Medicaid and Health Equity

Medicaid is one of the most powerful tools Illinois has to address racial, geographic, and economic disparities in HIV:

- It disproportionately serves populations most affected by HIV, including Black, Latine, and other communities of color, LGBTQ+ people, people living with disabilities, and low-income individuals and families.
- When Medicaid expansion under the ACA was implemented beginning in 2014, Illinois saw a reduction of the uninsured rate by 44% (2013-2015). Medicaid expansion also expanded prevention and treatment access, including for people living with and impacted by HIV.
- Research shows gaining Medicaid coverage improves access to preventive and primary health care, particularly in rural areas, and improves health outcomes and reduces financial strain.

Protecting Medicaid is inseparable from advancing health equity and ensuring access to HIV care and prevention for communities with the highest need.

If Illinois is serious about preventing new HIV transmissions, supporting people living with HIV, and addressing inequities in health access and outcomes, Medicaid must be protected, strengthened, and defended.

Medicaid is not just health insurance; it is the core infrastructure of Illinois's HIV response.

3.4 Million

people enrolled in Medicaid in Illinois, which is **25%** of the state's population

770,000 Adults

ACA Medicaid Expansion Enrollment

In State Fiscal Year 2024, **Illinois received over \$20 billion from the federal government**, accounting for roughly 62% of total funding for the Medicaid program in Illinois.



This federal-state partnership allows Illinois to provide comprehensive services without placing full cost on state budgets.