



Cover Texas Now: Quality Affordable Coverage and a Sustainable Health Care System

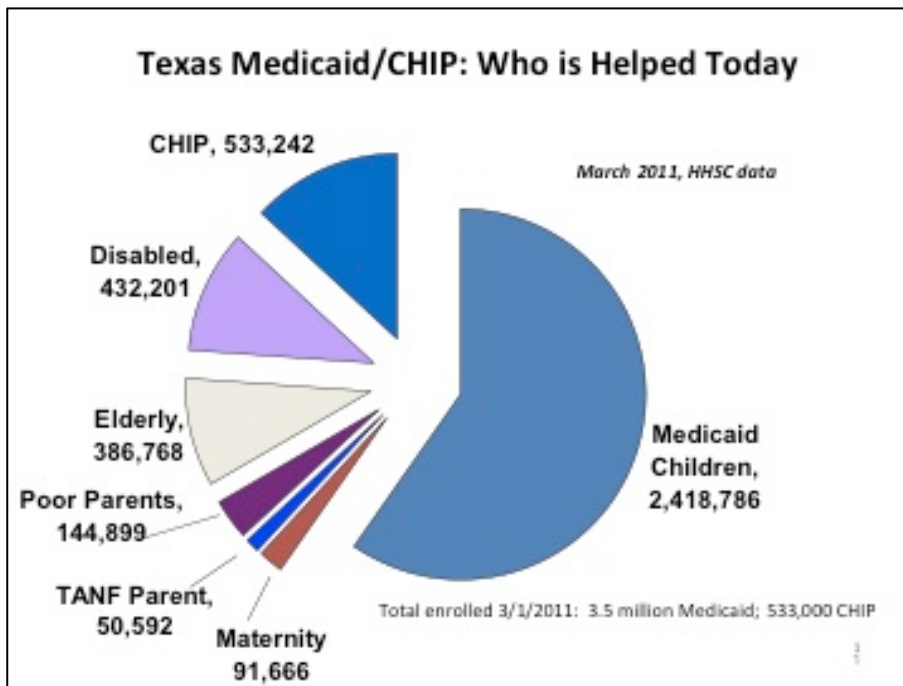
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Protecting Medicaid (& CHIP)

Quick Facts:

Texas Medicaid provides health care for some of Texas' poorest and most vulnerable citizens.

- This month, over 3.5 million Texans were enrolled in Medicaid.
- Another 533,000+ children were enrolled in CHIP.
- Together, that is 3 million Texas children and 1 million Texas adults getting vital health care from Medicaid and CHIP: One in Six Texans!



Texas Medicaid provides health care and life-saving supports for:

- 70% of Texans in Nursing Facilities;
- Virtually 100% of Texans with Intellectual Disabilities and other serious lifelong or childhood-acquired disabilities;
- 55% of Texas babies, who get prenatal care and delivery from Medicaid and CHIP;
- 2.5 million kids (3 million with CHIP);
- 100s of thousands of seniors and Texans with disabilities who avoid institutional care through provision of Medicaid support; and
- Over 1,600 women each month who are undergoing treatment for breast or cervical cancer.

What are the Threats to Medicaid and CHIP in 82nd Texas legislature?

- Budget bills for 2012-2013 were filed in January at **\$18 billion short of full funding** of Medicaid for 2 years: about a one-third cut from what the program needed just to keep doing what it is currently doing. To “save” \$7.6 billion state dollars, Texas would lose \$10.4 billion federal matching dollars.
- Part of the budget cuts come from **cutting fees** paid to health care providers (like doctors, hospitals, attendants, and nursing homes) **by 10%, for both Medicaid and CHIP.**
 - This can cause some providers to stop taking Medicaid and CHIP patients, while others may actually go out of business. Families on Medicaid and CHIP will likely have a much harder time finding doctors. Hospitals will have a much harder time covering costs.
- **Cuts to eyeglasses, hearing aids, medical supplies, prescriptions, and mental health care** are being discussed for seniors and adult Texans with disabilities.
- House and Senate budget committees added money to make the cuts smaller, but still would short-cut Medicaid by X\$ (hold for **updated info** depending on where bills are as of 3/30)

Key Messages for Our Elected officials:

- Deep cuts to Medicaid and CHIP will hurt our most vulnerable children, seniors, Texans with disabilities, and expectant mothers and weaken the health care system for all Texans.
- Deep cuts to Medicaid and CHIP provider fees will hurt these Texans’ ability to find a doctor, which will drive up expensive ER use and hospitalizations.
- Medicaid and CHIP cuts also result in losing our federal health care dollars to other states.
- Children will take a double-hit with school funding cuts and Medicaid/CHIP cuts unless we find a better way to balance our budget.
- We support real reforms to Medicaid/CHIP that save money by cost-effective health care that really improves our health and builds real “health homes”—as an alternative to cuts.
- Before cutting Medicaid or CHIP benefits or provider payment rates, or other vital public health and preventive health services, Texas must first use existing state resources, including the Rainy Day Fund, and find new resources, particularly by discouraging unhealthy behaviors through increased tobacco and alcohol taxes and taxes on sugary beverages.
 - Balance our budget in a balanced way. The cuts-alone approach will hurt our children, seniors, and Texans with disabilities, lose hundreds of thousands of jobs for Texans and short-change the future.

Medicaid Block Grant Questions? If You Are Asked here are some suggested responses:

- Proposals to “block grant” or “opt out” of Medicaid and CHIP will leave Texas unprotected, because they end the federal government’s promise to step in and help in a recession or a natural disaster.
- Is Medicaid spending “out of control?” No more than your health care or mine. Medicaid costs are not growing any faster than private insurance, and **much slower** than Medicare. Health spending must be controlled by system-wide reform of the whole system: Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance.