

How Medicaid Benefits Rural Communities



Medicaid is Vital for Rural Pennsylvania

Medicaid is a critical program that provides healthcare coverage to rural Pennsylvanians, ensuring access to essential services, supporting rural healthcare providers, and strengthening local economies. With many rural residents facing higher rates of chronic illness, limited healthcare facilities, and economic challenges, Medicaid serves as a lifeline for both individuals and healthcare institutions.

Key Benefits of Medicaid in Rural Pennsylvania

Sustaining Rural Healthcare Providers

- Medicaid funding helps keep small hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes open.
- Rural hospitals in Medicaid expansion states are 62% less likely to close

Addressing Mental Health & Substance Use Treatment

- Covers therapy, psychiatric care, and counseling in areas with mental health shortages.
- Funds substance use treatment programs to combat opioid addiction and other substance use challenges.

Economic Impact on Rural Communities

- Medicaid supports thousands of healthcare jobs, including doctors, nurses, and staff.
- Provides funding to local healthcare facilities, helping sustain rural economies.

Long-Term and Home-Based Care

- Medicaid is the largest payer for nursing home care, ensuring rural elderly residents receive services.
- Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) provide long-term care options, allowing individuals to remain in their homes rather than entering institutions.

Emergency & Critical Care Access

- Ensures rural residents have coverage for emergency services, including ambulance transportation.
- Supports hospital infrastructure and investment in life-saving medical services.

Medicaid is essential for rural Pennsylvania, providing vital healthcare services, stabilizing local economies, and preventing hospital closures. Protecting Medicaid ensures that rural residents continue to receive the care they need.