

Medicaid Matters NJ

How Federal Medicaid Cuts Would Impact NJ FamilyCare and Other Programs

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President/CEO
March 25, 2025



for **ADVOCATES**
CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY
Giving Every Child A Chance®
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What is Medicaid?

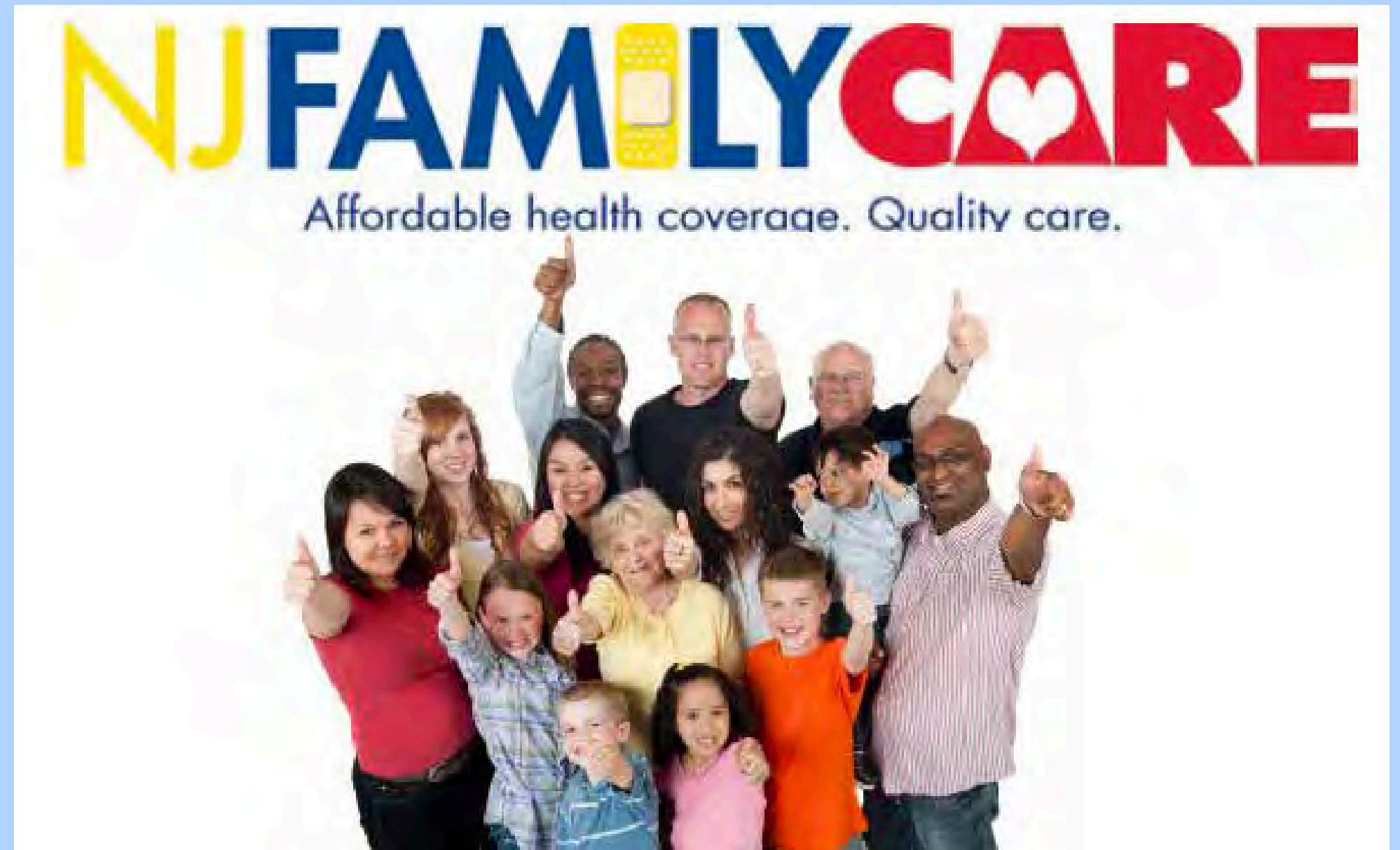
Medicaid is...

- Joint federal and state program providing free or low-cost healthcare
- Covers low-income families, children, pregnant women, seniors, and people with disabilities
- Pays for doctor and dentist visits, hospital stays, prescriptions, preventive care, mental health services, and long-term care



How Medicaid Works

- Each state administers its own program within federal guidelines
- Eligibility and benefits vary by state
- In New Jersey, Medicaid = NJ FamilyCare, covering 1.8 million residents



Quick Facts About NJ Family Care



- 1.8 million New Jerseyans
- Low to moderate income children and adults
 - Over 830,000 children (Ages 0 - 18 years old)
 - Almost 80,000 young adults (Ages 19-21 years old)
 - 31% of New Jersey births

Medicaid also covers:

- Individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness
- Elderly and disabled individuals requiring long-term care

Currently, NJ Family Care has no work requirements; no premiums or copays

Federal Government CUTS

US House of Representatives Budget Resolution = **\$1.5 Trillion over 10 years**

CUTS include:

- **\$880 billion** proposed by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees **Medicare and Medicaid**
- **\$330 billion** from the House Education and Workforce Committee, which controls **education funding**
- **\$230 billion** from the House Agriculture Committee, which oversees **programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

CUTS to NJ

HAPPENING NOW

Loss of Local Food Program Funding in NJ

Due to the **Continuing Resolution** funding the government through September 2025, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture will lose:

- \$9.9 million in Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) funding
- \$16.2 million in Local Food for Schools (LFS) funding

These cuts impact 46 local producers, including 32 underserved producers, reducing their ability to supply fresh, locally sourced food to schools and food banks across the state.



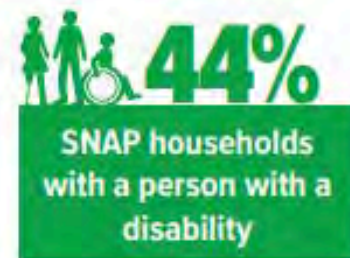
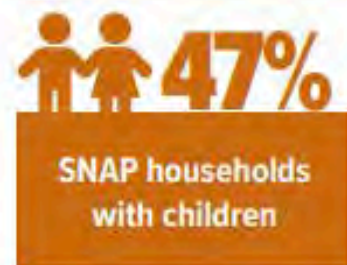
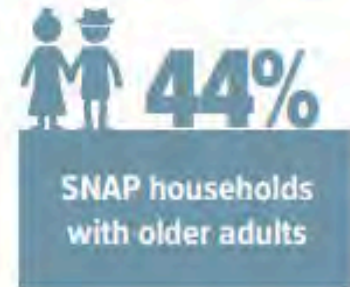
PROTECT SNAP to Reduce Hunger and Strengthen Local Economies in NEW JERSEY

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's first line of defense against hunger, helping **848,204** people in **NEW JERSEY** put food on the table. In fiscal year 2024, SNAP brought **\$1,925,845,112** to the state. With **10%** of **NEW JERSEY** households experiencing food insecurity and high food prices, protecting and strengthening SNAP is more important than ever.

! TAKE ACTION: REJECT PROPOSALS THAT CUT OR RESTRICT ACCESS TO SNAP BENEFITS.

Proposed cuts mean fewer federal funds supporting local economies, children losing school meals, and decreasing WIC participation for babies and toddlers ages 0–4. These cuts would increase hunger by taking food away from Americans in need, decrease local revenue, and overwhelm already strained food pantries. **For every meal a pantry provides, SNAP offers nine.**

SNAP'S IMPACT IN NEW JERSEY



- ▶ **9%** of households in **NEW JERSEY** participated in SNAP. SNAP participants reside throughout the state: **one in 11 households in metro areas in NEW JERSEY.**
- ▶ In FY 2024, SNAP participants in **NEW JERSEY** received an **average of \$194.01 per month** in SNAP benefits. This averages **\$6.37 per person per day.**
- ▶ SNAP helped over **350,579 children in NEW JERSEY** in 2022. It also provided these children with eligibility for school meals. Cuts to SNAP would mean that children in families with low incomes would lose access to school meals.

KEY ECONOMIC FACTS

- ▶ **SNAP supports working families.** Between 2019–2023, an average of **82%** of SNAP households in **NEW JERSEY** included someone who was working.
- ▶ **SNAP stimulates the economy and creates jobs.** Each SNAP dollar has up to a \$1.80 impact during economic downturns, supporting the supply chain from farmer to store.
- ▶ **SNAP supports local businesses,** including **5,677 retailers in NEW JERSEY,** which redeemed a total of **\$2,474,604,702** in 2023. Retailers include grocery stores and farmers' markets, which contribute to local taxes that fund services like schools and health care.

SOURCES FOR THIS FACT SHEET CAN BE FOUND IN THE [TECHNICAL NOTES.](#)

SNAP IS A PROVEN, COST-EFFECTIVE PROGRAM

that reduces food insecurity, supports the health of children, older adults, and veterans. SNAP reduces health care costs, improves educational outcomes, and supports local economies. Support NEW JERSEY families by opposing any cuts to SNAP.

STRENGTHEN SNAP, STRENGTHEN NEW JERSEY

Protect SNAP!

SCHOOL MEALS SUPPORT CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

Proposed Cuts to School Meals Would Worsen Childhood Hunger, Hurt Struggling Families, and Create Unnecessary Burdens for **227** Schools in **NEW JERSEY**

House Budget Committee Chair Jodey Arrington (R-TX) has proposed \$12 billion in cuts to school meals programs for the 2025 budget reconciliation. The proposals would substantially decrease the number of schools eligible for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and make it harder for eligible families to apply for free or reduced-price school meals at non-CEP schools. Combined, these proposals would reduce students' access to school meals and raise families' grocery bills, while imposing unnecessary and burdensome paperwork requirements on schools in **NEW JERSEY**.

What Is Community Eligibility?

CEP allows schools serving large numbers of children from families with low incomes to offer school meals at no charge to all students. Rather than relying on school meal applications to determine a school's federal reimbursements, CEP schools are reimbursed based on the share of students from families with low incomes, as determined through a data-matching process that identifies students' participation in other means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Currently, schools can adopt CEP if at least 25 percent of students receive these benefits.

CONGRESS MUST REJECT ANY PROPOSAL TO WEAKEN CEP

Chair Arrington's proposal would increase the CEP eligibility threshold for schools from **25** percent to **60** percent of students identified as receiving benefits. This would cut over 24,000 schools nationwide from participating in CEP and undermine the health and learning of more than **12 million children**.

Community Eligibility Supports Students, Families, and Schools

CEP is a win for students, families, and schools. CEP gives all students access to the nutritious school breakfasts and lunches they need to be well-nourished and ready to learn, while reducing the stigma often present in school cafeterias when schools have to track students' eligibility for free, reduced-price, and paid meals. **When students have access to free meals at school, families have lower grocery bills and more money in their household budgets to help make ends meet.**

CEP has grown in popularity since first becoming available nationwide over a decade ago. In the 2023–2024 school year, one out of every two schools that operated the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) participated in CEP. CEP makes school meal operations more efficient and effective: It eliminates the administrative burden associated with school meal applications, strengthens program integrity, and supports school nutrition finances by eliminating school meal debt and increasing participation in school breakfast and lunch, which allows for economies of scale.



IN 2023–2024 SCHOOL YEAR

365 SCHOOLS

in **NEW JERSEY** — which represents **14** percent of schools that participate in the school lunch program — adopted CEP, reaching **156,709** children each school day.

The proposed cuts to school meals would **increase hardships** for children and families across **NEW JERSEY**:



227 schools in **NEW JERSEY** would no longer be able to provide free school meals through CEP and would have to reinstate meal applications.



66 school districts in **NEW JERSEY**, listed on the reverse page, would be affected.



93,251 **NEW JERSEY** children attend schools that would no longer be able to offer meals at no charge to all students through CEP.¹

Rather than reducing access to school meals, **CONGRESS SHOULD INVEST IN CEP** and reduce barriers to applying for free or reduced-price school meals, so families can afford groceries and children have access to the nutritious meals they need to thrive in school and beyond.

Protect
USDA
FUNDING!

Federal Government Investment in NJ's Medicaid = \$14 Billion

Coverage includes approximately:

- 90% of the costs for low-income adults enrolled through the Medicaid Expansion of the Affordable Care Act
- 65% of the costs for moderate to low-income children under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- 50% of the cost for most other NJ FamilyCare members (Medicaid)
- Costs for children enrolled via Cover All Kids who are income eligible

**New Jersey's
Medicaid
Investment:
\$10 Billion**

**Estimated
Total Cost of
Medicaid CUTS
on NJ
\$5.2 Billion**

Medicaid, Early Intervention, and the Department of Education

Medicaid funds nearly **30%** of all early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, and the Department of Education protects **all** students with disabilities.



IDEA

MEDICAID

OCCUPATIONAL,

PHYSICAL,

SPEECH THERAPY,

AND MORE...

New Jersey Children's System of Care

The New Jersey Children's System of Care (CSOC) provides behavioral health, substance use, and developmental disability services for children, youth, and their families. It ensures access to community-based care regardless of a family's ability to pay.

CSOC Serves:

- Children and youth (up to age 21) with:
 - Mental health challenges
 - Substance use disorders
 - Intellectual and developmental disabilities

How It Works:

- Families can access crisis intervention, counseling, in-home support, and out-of-home treatment
- Services are funded through Medicaid and state dollars, ensuring widespread access
- CSOC helps bridge coverage gaps left by private insurance



Impact of Medicaid CUTS on CSOC

- CSOC relies on Medicaid to cover services when private insurance falls short
- Most CSOC payments come from Medicaid, ensuring universal access to care
- Medicaid cuts threaten CSOC, forcing NJ to cover more costs or reduce services
- Potential risks:
 - Fewer Medicaid-covered children = less federal funding
 - Changes to federal-state cost sharing (FMAP) could raise state expenses
 - Large federal funding losses could make it harder for NJ to fill coverage gaps





Impact of Medicaid CUTS on School-Based Programs

- Medicaid funds school-based health services for Medicaid-enrolled children
- SEMI supports students with disabilities, covering health-related services in schools
- 90,000 students rely on SEMI, with 59% of NJ districts participating (408 of 697)
- Medicaid cuts threaten funding, reducing access to essential student care



PETITION TO STOP FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS TO MEDICAID



Text Five Friends

Protect Medicaid - Essential Healthcare is at Risk! Medicaid is a lifeline for over 1.8 million NJ residents, including children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Sign our petition to stop federal budget cuts to Medicaid!

<https://tinyurl.com/Medicaid-Petition>

Advocates for Children of New Jersey | ACNJ.org



Medicaid Matters NJ

Advocacy WORKS

Social Media Templates

- **Twitter/X Post/BlueSky:** "1.8 million NJ residents rely on Medicaid, but Congress is threatening cuts! Tell your reps: NO Medicaid cuts!
#ACNJforMedicaid #MedicaidMattersNJ #ProtectMedicaid"
- **Facebook/Instagram Post:** "Medicaid provides care for children, seniors, and people with disabilities in New Jersey. Cuts could force thousands to lose coverage. Tag your congressional legislators and tell them, "Hands off Medicaid! **#ACNJforMedicaid #MedicaidMattersNJ #ProtectMedicaid"** - Make sure to tag ACNJ!!



Medicaid Matters NJ

Advocacy
WORKS

Call Script for Contacting Lawmakers

“Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I am a resident of [City, NJ]. I’m calling to urge [Senator/Representative’s Name] to oppose any Medicaid cuts. Medicaid helps 1.8 million NJ residents, including children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Cuts to Medicaid would be devastating for our communities. Please commit to protecting Medicaid funding. Thank you.”

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Click the "More Details" button for contact information and social media accounts.

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NJ 08861-2621

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Federal House



Rep. Frank Joseph Pallone Jr.
US Representative
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NJ Congressional Representatives by District

- 1st Donald Norcross
- 2nd Jeff Van Drew
- 3rd Herb Conaway
- 4th Chris Smith
- 5th Josh Gottheimer
- 6th Frank Pallone
- 7th Thomas Kean Jr.
- 8th Rob Menendez
- 9th Nellie Pou
- 10th LaMonica McIver
- 11th Mikie Sherrill
- 12th Bonnie Watson Coleman

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Democratic Party

Elected since 1988 (Next Election Date: 2026)

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