



State of Reform: Preparing Medicaid for the Wave Ahead

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Utah Health Policy Project
is a non-profit, non-
partisan organization
advancing sustainable
health care solutions for
underserved Utahns,
through better access,
education,
and public policy



For questions regarding eligibility and FREE assistance with enrollment, contact our Take Care Utah health access assisters.

Click Here to Book An Appointment Today!

Haz Clic Aquí Para Hacer Una Cita!

During this time of social distancing, UHPP's Take Care Utah health access assisters have a variety of remote enrollment options, including phone appointments, video chat assistance, and screen sharing capabilities.

HealthPolicyProject.org or call 2-1-1

Where Are We Now?

- January 2020 full expansion moved from **100% to 138%** [Federal Poverty Level](#)
 - Individual: just under \$1,500
 - Household size of 4: just over \$3,000/month
- Work Requirements started - but now **SUSPENDED** as of April
- New rules in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act offer boost in federal dollars.... WITH '**MOE**' **CONDITIONS** protecting enrollees
 - No new restrictions, cost-sharing, benefit cuts
 - Must cover COVID testing, treatment, vaccine
 - Continuous coverage through the end of federal emergency period
 - **However**, that is a short-term solution, while continuous coverage for kids, which passed 2020 session, was **rescinded** in special session.
- Uninsured COVID-19 testing category **OPEN** in June



Medicaid's Role In a Crisis

- Covers workers who would otherwise be uninsured. Essential safety net, especially while health care and employment are so connected!
- Counter-cyclical = grows as economy shrinks
- Tool to address health disparities, reduce inequities
- Tool to promote economic security
- Tool to improve public health, increase access to testing and care – reducing the spread and impact of COVID-19



Who Is covered?

18,714 Parents

40,498 Adults w/out
Dependent Children

6,504 Targeted Adult



65,716

TOTAL

Expansion

345,865 TOTAL Medicaid

16,348 Kids on CHIP

1,722 Uninsured Testing

<http://www.healthpolicyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Medicaid-Trends-September-2020.pdf>

National Perspective: Enrollment Trends

55k case increase since January
16.9% increase since February
2nd highest % Change in US

Continuous Coverage?
New Enrollees?
Both.

	February to Most Recent Month	(% Change)
Kentucky	August	17.2%
Utah	August	16.9%
Minnesota*	August	14.5%
Missouri	June	12.9%
North Carolina	August	12.8%

Utah's budget is **uniquely prepared** thanks to Proposition 3's non-food sales tax funding mechanism

Healthier population, lower unemployment, better fiscal situation than many other states - but not immune to budget challenges...



#FUNDMEDICAID

Congress must pass an additional temporary FMAP increase as well as additional state and local \$\$

Utah's \$757 million budget shortfall for state fiscal year 2021 (July 2020 – June 2021) accounts for a 6.2% FMAP bump from July 2020 through September 2020, which amounts to about \$64 million in federal funding. However, the PHE was extended in July, meaning Utah will continue to receive the 6.2% FMAP bump through December 2020, which will bring in an additional \$64 million in federal funding by the end of December.

If the 6.2% FMAP bump continues through June 2021, Utah will receive an additional \$190 million in federal funding, reducing the budget shortfall by roughly 25%.

A 14 % FMAP bump could cut more than two thirds of Utah's budget shortfall.

- A 14% FMAP bump that continues through June 2021 would reduce Utah's budget shortfall by about \$510 million (a 67.3% decrease).



Maximizing Medicaid In The Ongoing Emergency, and Preparing for *Future* Crises

- Automatic stabilizers - FMAP increases tied to economic conditions, unemployment <https://www.aging.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Coronavirus%20Medicaid%20Response%20Act%20One%20Pager.pdf>
- Incentivize expansion in non-expansion states
- Invest in providers: PPE, retainer funds, fiscal relief
- Lessons from this pandemic re: racial disparities, nursing homes, telehealth, benefits of continuous coverage
- **Address health equity and strengthen the safety net BEFORE the next crisis: better prepared, better outcomes**

