



Medicaid for Adults with Disabilities - Fact Sheet

Why is Medicaid important?

- In the U.S., 15 million people with disabilities and older adults use Medicaid to pay for their health care.
- At least 1 in 3 working adults with disabilities use Medicaid to meet their care needs.

How does Medicaid help people with disabilities?

- Medicaid pays for **preventive and specialty health care and mental health care.**
- Medicaid pays for **specialized medical equipment** such as wheelchairs, walkers and hearing aids.
- Medicaid covers **supportive services** such as:
 - Personal care attendants so individuals with disabilities and/or their family members can work.
 - Home and community-based services to prevent institutionalization.
- Medicaid also pays for **nursing homes** for low-income elders and people with disabilities who need full-time care.

Why does Medicaid make financial sense?

- **It is efficient.** For adults with similar health issues, Medicaid expenses are 20% less than for private insurance.
- **It is cost-effective.** Providing preventive care and supportive services is much less expensive than the cost of emergency, inpatient, and long-term care services.
- **It supports independent living.** Paying for in-home services such as a personal care attendant helps people live at home, take care of their daily activities, and work.
- **It helps families.** Thanks to the in-home or nursing home services covered by Medicaid, family members of people with disabilities are able to keep working.

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