

Talking Points for State Policymakers on Block Grants and Per Capita Caps

- Block grants and per capita caps are not a real solution. They don't reduce underlying costs - they just force states to take on a bigger share. It is just a way for Congress to shift the costs from the federal government to states and middle-class working families.
- It's important to know that regardless of how much we would get in our base year, the base amount will definitely not keep up with the actual costs of our state's Medicaid program. We would have to make up a growing gap in funding without any federal help.
 - Every year, [STATE] would be forced to make bigger and bigger cuts in our program, indefinitely. We can't turn this in to good deal for our state.
 - It would also make it extremely difficult for [STATE] to deal with anything that would increase our state's Medicaid costs – like another economic downturn or natural disasters like an epidemic, hurricane or earthquake.
- Once we cap spending through block grants or per capita caps, we can't go back. Speaker Ryan's block grant proposal would cut Medicaid funding by a third, and his per capita cap proposal would require cuts to federal Medicaid funding per beneficiary by as much as 50 percent over 10 years. That means if it were to be passed, the cost of reversing it would be so significant it would essentially be insurmountable.
- By draining federal Medicaid funds from [STATE], block grants and per capita caps would constrain the kinds of innovations we can invest in to improve care and lower costs. For example, we won't be able to provide the upfront investments and incentives needed to help providers transform their practices to provide better care coordination. Instead, we'll be forced to use blunt tools to generate immediate savings – such as slashing eligibility, benefits and provider rates - rather than investing in a more efficient and effective program.

Talking Points for General Medicaid Defense

Medicaid Matters to [STATE]-ians

Medicaid provides long-term care to millions of seniors, covers important services that help Americans with disabilities live independently, and enables millions of children to see a doctor.

Medicaid pays for the care of children with Down Syndrome, Autism, and other conditions that require specialized care. Without Medicaid, these families would likely struggle to afford this kind of care.

Medicaid helps parents deal with serious health issues, like breast cancer, or stay healthy even when they lose their jobs so that they can take care of their children without worrying about medical bankruptcy.

Medicaid and Children's Long-term Success

Children who have Medicaid are more likely to attend school, graduate from high school and attend college than those who are uninsured.

Children who have Medicaid are more likely to grow up to be healthier adults who earn more and pay more in taxes than those who are uninsured.

Medicaid helps children get the well-child visits and screenings they need to support their healthy development.