



CWDA

Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of All Californians

ACA, Medicaid Expansion are Critical to Self-Sufficiency

ACA Repeal Would Undermine Anti-Poverty Work, Reverse Gains Made in State's Economy

California's 58 county human services agencies are on the front lines of efforts to fight poverty, help the state's residents achieve self-sufficiency, and thereby boost the economy. The Affordable Care Act, especially the Medicaid expansion to non-disabled, childless adults, has made a tremendous difference for millions of low-income Californians, allowing many to move into the workforce after overcoming health barriers; maintain their self-employment and contribute to the local economy; and receive support for behavioral health challenges. Providing more people with affordable, comprehensive health care has helped them better support their families and spend their limited incomes on rent, food and other basic needs, improving overall community health and boosting local economies.

MEDICAID EXPANSION HELPS PEOPLE OF ALL AGES; UNINSURED RATES PLUMMET

- More than **3.7 million newly eligible adults** have enrolled into the Medicaid (known as Medi-Cal in California). Currently **1 in 3** Californians – children, their family members, adults and seniors – access health care via Medicaid. More than **14 million people statewide** access health care through the program.
- In many counties, **half the population or more is enrolled in Medicaid**, including Del Norte, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Lake, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and Tulare counties. Many additional counties' enrollments are greater than 40 percent.
- California's uninsured rate has **dropped to 7.1 percent**, according the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's down from 18.6 percent in 2010, when the Affordable Care Act became law.

ACA REPEAL WOULD DEVASTATE CALIFORNIA COUNTIES & LOCAL ECONOMIES

- California's counties and local economies stand to **lose billions of dollars** if the ACA is repealed. According to the UC Berkeley Labor Center, an ACA repeal means:
 - \$20.3 billion in lost GDP
 - \$1.5 billion in lost state and federal tax revenue
 - 209,000 jobs lost.

CASE STUDY: MEDICAID EXPANSION IS CHANGING & SAVING LIVES

Carla McNamara, Shasta County

Mother of Medicaid Client Receiving Mental Health Treatment

Carla McNamara's son, now 28, struggled for years with mental health issues, turning to drugs to self-medicate and eventually becoming homeless. She tried for years to help him. Like so many parents who watch their children struggle with mental health and substance abuse addiction, she worried that he would not make it. Then the Affordable Care Act was passed and the Medicaid expansion made it possible for childless adults to qualify for health care coverage. Carla's son qualified for Medicaid, which opened the door to a substance abuse and mental health treatment center. Carla fears if her son loses his Medicaid health care coverage, the intensive work that has gone into recovery and managing his mental health will suddenly end.

"This story is about my son but it's true for many people who are homeless and dual diagnosis individuals; for young people who can't be on their parents' insurance and can't afford health coverage of their own," Carla said. "If it wasn't for Medi-Cal I just don't see how he would have gotten the medications he needed to get past the addictions, get counseling and manage his mental health. I deeply believe it saved his life."

CALL TO ACTION: NO REPEAL WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE, TIMELY REPLACEMENT

- No one should lose health coverage or experience an increase in costs or reduction in coverage due to changes Congress or the Trump Administration enacts to ACA.
- CWDA and county human service agencies urge that any action to repeal or revise the Affordable Care Act [preserve the Medicaid expansion](#) and be coupled with [an adequate, timely replacement](#) that ensures the same level of quality benefits, without increasing recipients' out-of-pocket costs.

This fact sheet was created by
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