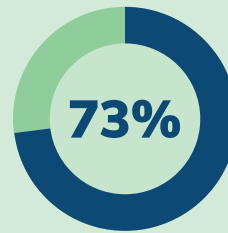




## Idaho's Medicaid Expansion at a Glance

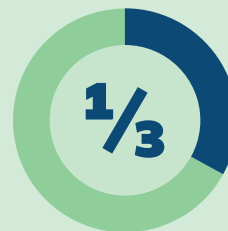
Idaho voters passed Medicaid expansion through a popular ballot initiative with 61% of the vote (35 out of 44 counties voted Yes) for Medicaid expansion. Previously, thousands of Idahoans were uninsured and fell into the “health coverage gap.” They didn’t have a health insurance option through their employer, but they earned too much to qualify for traditional Medicaid and too little to qualify for tax credits that make coverage affordable.

### Idahoans support Medicaid expansion.



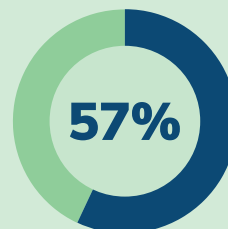
of Idahoans believe Medicaid Expansion should be kept as is.<sup>1</sup>

### Medicaid expansion is critical to mental wellness.



of Medicaid Expansion enrollees rely on Medicaid for treatment of serious mental illness.<sup>2</sup>

### Medicaid expansion provides coverage to Idahoans without other options.



of Idaho employers do not offer health insurance.

### RECENT CHANGES

In 2025, House Bill 345 and the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act were passed and made changes to Medicaid expansion. Starting in 2026, Idahoans on Medicaid expansion will be required to submit renewal applications every six months instead of twelve. In 2027, they will be required to meet specific work and community engagement requirements to keep their coverage.<sup>4</sup>

## Medicaid's Impact on Idahoans

Idahoans can see a doctor when they are sick, buy medications, and get treatment without choosing between their health and necessities like groceries and rent. Research links Medicaid expansion to:



**Better health outcomes:** fewer premature deaths, better controlled diabetes and hypertension, earlier detection of cancers, and reduced rates of depression.



**Greater financial stability:** reductions in medical debt, better credit scores, access to lower-interest loans, reductions in evictions for renters.<sup>3</sup>



**Reductions in uncompensated care:** more solvent hospitals with rural areas seeing the biggest benefits.

### Fiscal Year 2026 to date, Idaho's Medicaid expansion has seen:

- **90,173 Idahoans** enrolled (less than the projection of 92,008).<sup>12</sup>
- Total cost to the state comes in at **1.6%** of all state general fund appropriations.<sup>13</sup>
- Costs are coming in lower than projected, \$97.7 million was appropriated and the updated request is **\$89.4 million**.<sup>14</sup>



*Idaho Supports Medicaid is a project of Idaho Voices for Children*

*For more information, visit [idahosupportsmedicaid.com](http://idahosupportsmedicaid.com) or contact Hillarie Matlock at [hmatlock@idahovoices.org](mailto:hmatlock@idahovoices.org)*

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## The Cost and Savings of Medicaid Expansion

**Medicaid expansion brings approximately \$1 billion each year into Idaho's healthcare infrastructure, while the state pays only 10% of the cost.**<sup>5</sup> Services for people who are now covered by Medicaid expansion were previously paid entirely with state and local tax dollars. **Expansion generates substantial savings across state and local programs** including behavioral health, courts, the Department of Correction, public health, and county and state catastrophic indigent care funds.

In FY 2026, the state cost for Medicaid expansion is \$91 million.<sup>6</sup> **If Medicaid expansion is repealed, it will cost the state more** (approximately \$143 million) in other programs that would need to be covered with general fund dollars. Including:

- Behavioral health, drug courts, Department of Correction, public health, and reinstating the county indigent and state catastrophic care funds (\$78 million)<sup>7</sup>
- State Hospital South and State Hospital North (\$27.5 million)<sup>8</sup>
- Hospital taxes generated that help cover home and community-based services (\$38.3 million)<sup>9</sup>
- Postpartum funding under Medicaid expansion being covered at 90% federal match instead of 70%

Additionally, the economic benefits generated would be lost:<sup>10</sup>

- General fund revenue and property tax revenue (\$47 million)
- 9,362 jobs are available because of Medicaid expansion

Overall, **Idaho Medicaid remains highly efficient**, with 95.5%<sup>11</sup> of its budget spent directly on medical care. Medicaid expansion reduces Idaho's uninsured rate and strengthens Idaho's economy while saving public dollars.

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