



The Truth about Medicaid and Wyoming's Budget



Recent federal legislation would cover the entire cost of updating Wyoming's outdated Medicaid program.

The American Rescue Plan, enacted in March, includes additional funding for states that update their Medicaid programs. Wyoming would become eligible to receive enough federal funds to extend Medicaid coverage to low-income residents without any additional spending by the state.

Details: A \$54 million opportunity

The funding would come in the form of an increase to the rate the federal government chips in for Medicaid expenditures.

States that update their Medicaid programs pay a 90-10 cost split with the federal government. For Wyoming, our state portion would be about \$20 million a biennium.

The estimated \$54 million in relief funding would come to Wyoming over the course of two years. It covers Wyoming's share of updating our Medicaid program, with an additional \$34 million going to the state general fund.*

No additional spending by the state

\$54 million in relief funding

25,000 residents gain coverage

*Source: "2021 Medicaid Expansion Update – Considering Incentives in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021," Wyoming Department of Health; March 2021

Outdated vs. updated

The 38 states that have updated their Medicaid programs to cover low-income residents receive a 90-10 cost split from the federal government.

Wyoming lags behind. As a result, we pay more, and fewer people have health insurance.

» Outdated

50-50: The cost split Wyoming pays for Medicaid with the federal government

Who we cover now: People with disabilities and other severe obstacles to job-based insurance

» Updated

90-10: The cost split states pay that have updated their Medicaid programs. In addition, Wyoming would receive \$54 million in relief funding.

Who we'd cover: Adults who earn less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level—for instance, a single parent who works full-time for \$12 an hour.



Vote for a Healthy Wyoming

The Wyoming Department of Health estimates that 25,000 residents would gain insurance coverage if we update our Medicaid program. Not only would this strengthen our state's budget with new funding, but it would also:

- » **drive down uncompensated care costs at our hospitals and rural and safety-net clinics**
 - » **create healthcare jobs**
 - » **decrease insurance premiums in the state, and**
 - » **help create a healthier Wyoming**