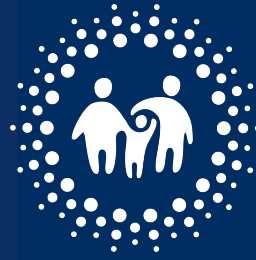




Georgetown University
McCourt School of Public Policy
CENTER FOR CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES



IDEA
INFANT & TODDLER
COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION



ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

How Medicaid Helps Provides Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Developmental Delays

April 2, 2025

Today's Plan

1. Medicaid Overview
2. How Medicaid and IDEA Part C early intervention work together
3. Proposals Under Consideration by Congress
4. Family perspective (Michigan)
5. State perspective (Texas)
6. Panel discussion, Q&A



Read the new brief [here!](#)

Our Speakers



Elisabeth Wright Burak,
Georgetown CCF



Adriana Kohler
Texans Care for Children



Maureen Greer,
IDEA Infant & Toddler
Coordinators Association



Johanna Lister
ZERO TO THREE



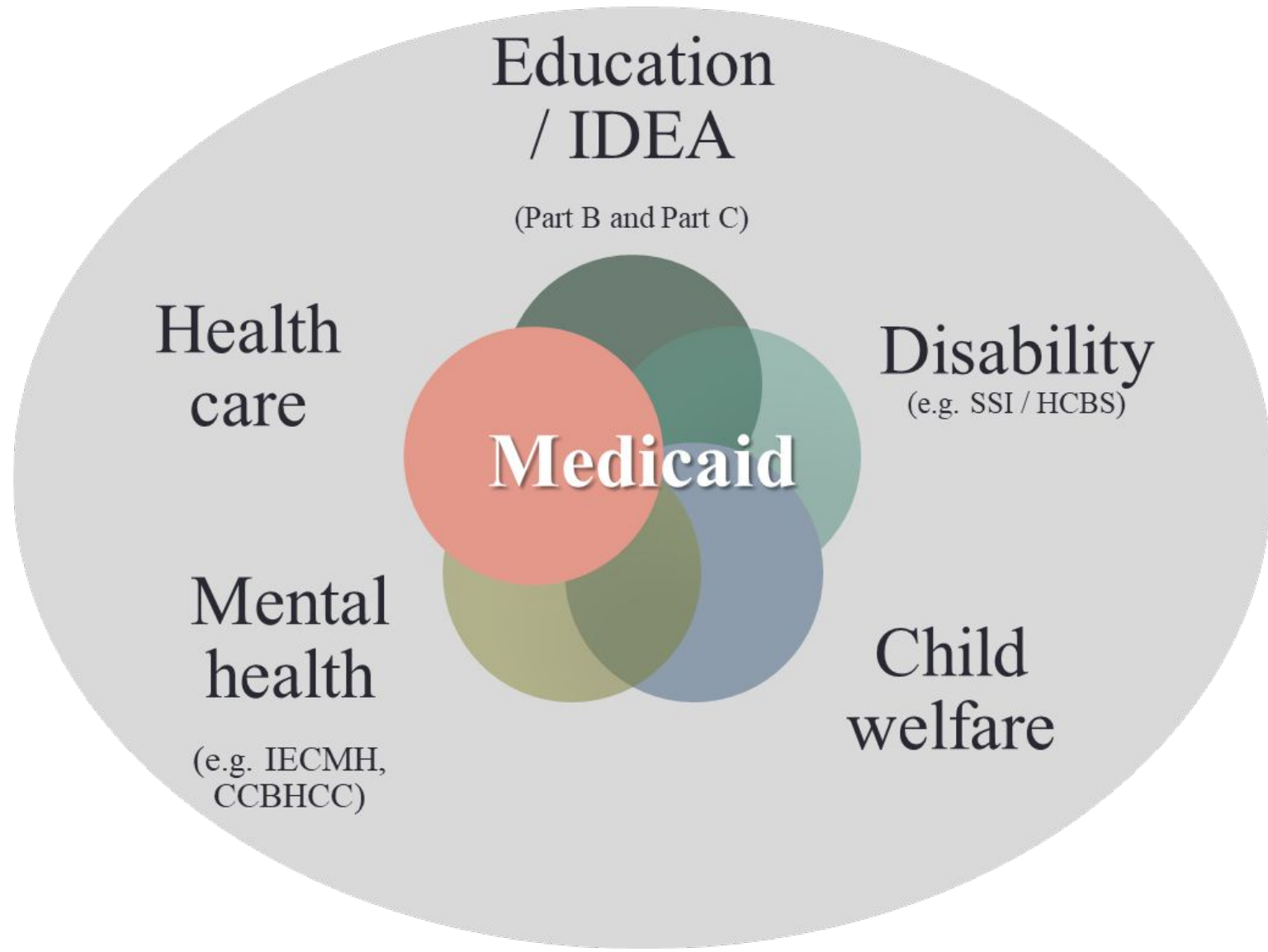
Rebecca Amidon,
Parent



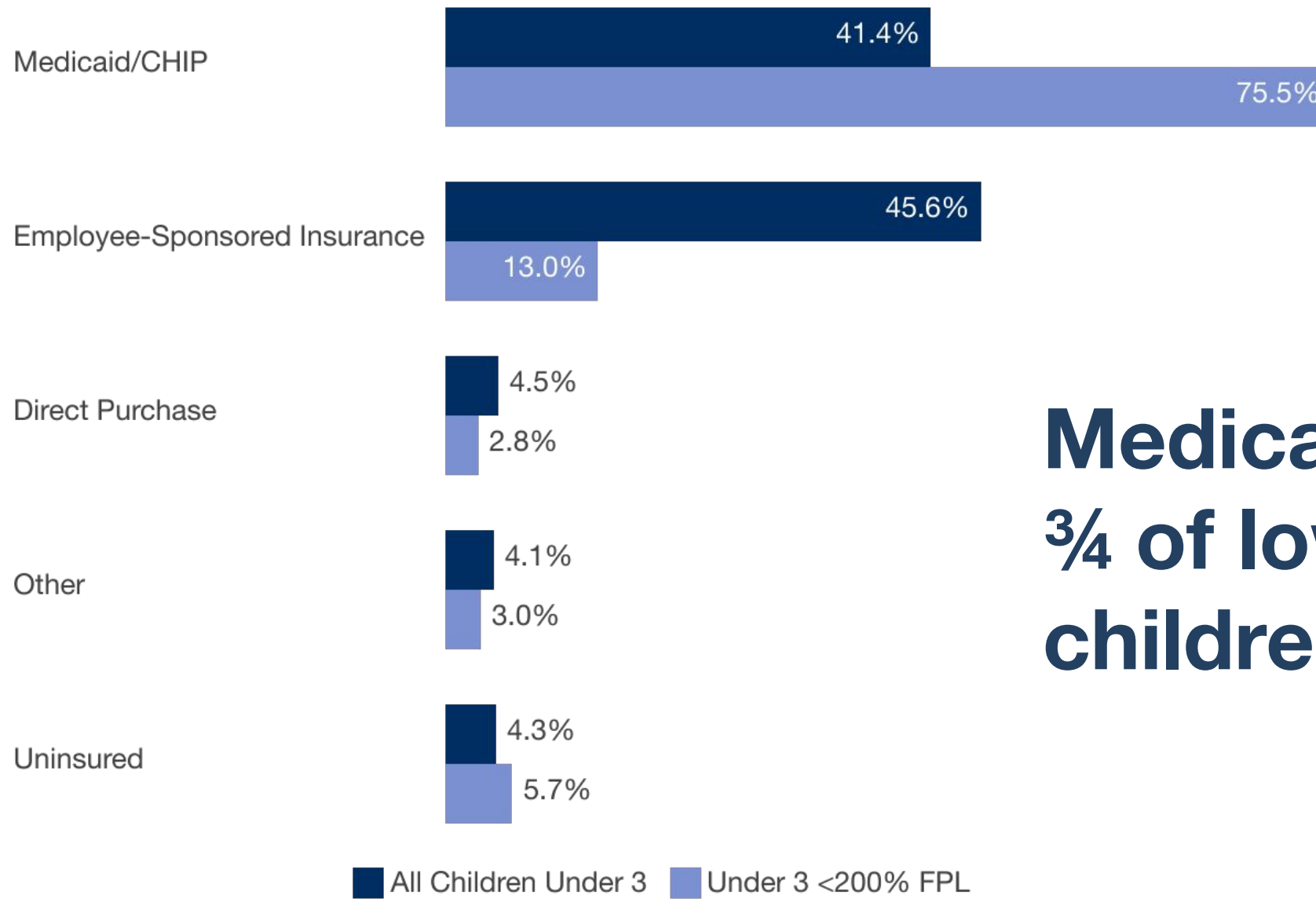
Medicaid's Many Roles

- Medicaid/CHIP provide health coverage for close to:
 - Half of all children 0-19
 - All children in foster care
 - Half of children with special health care needs (CSHCN)
 - 40 - 50% of all births
- Largest funder of long-term care services, substance abuse treatment, mental health services
- Medicaid plays a key role in:
 - Rural and urban communities
 - Pandemics and natural disasters

Medicaid finances a large share of services in many child-serving systems



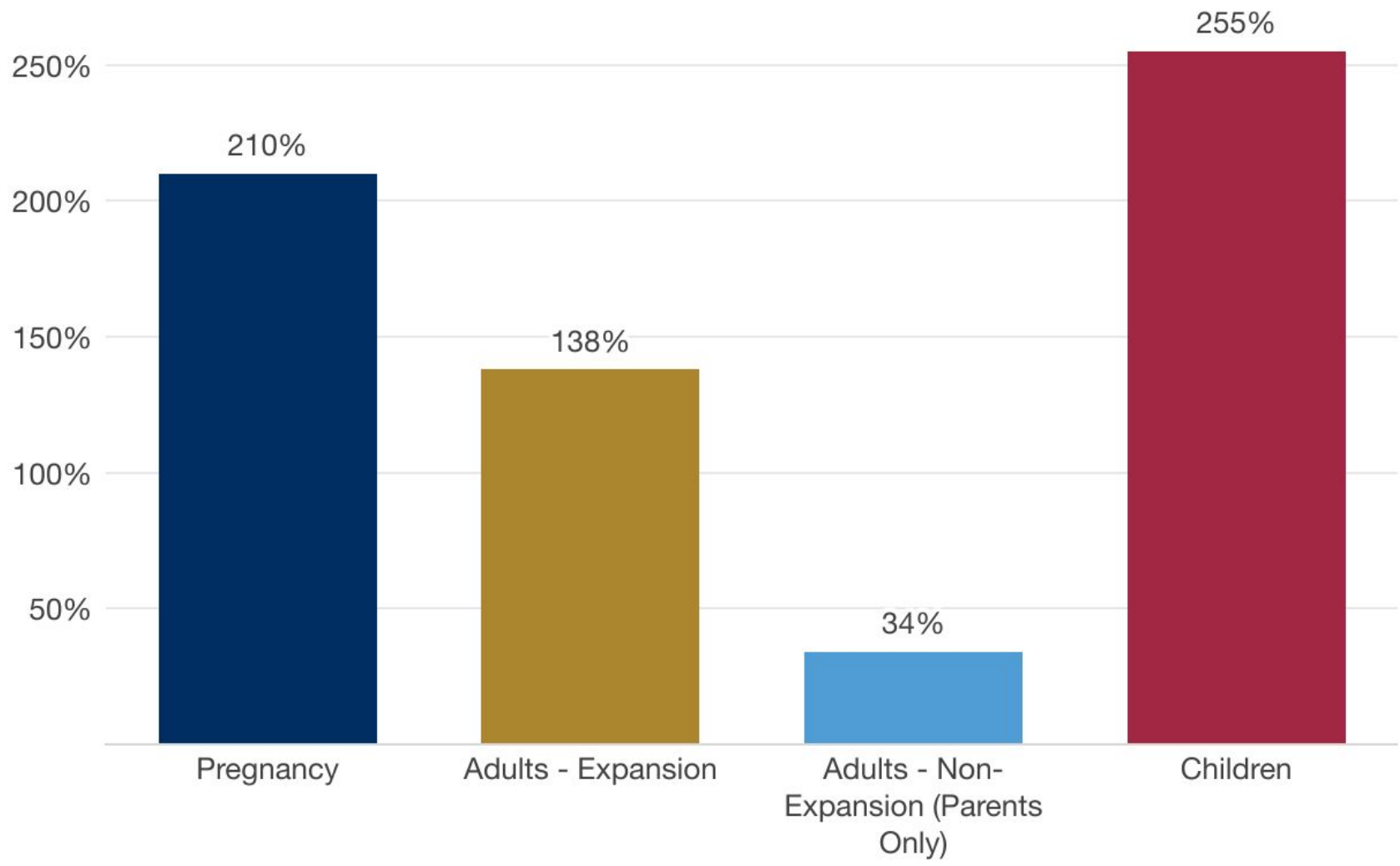
Sources of Health Coverage for Children Under 3, 2023



**Medicaid covers
3/4 of low-income
children under 3**

Medicaid provides health coverage for 72 million low-income children, adults, and seniors

Median Income Eligibility Limit, June 2024

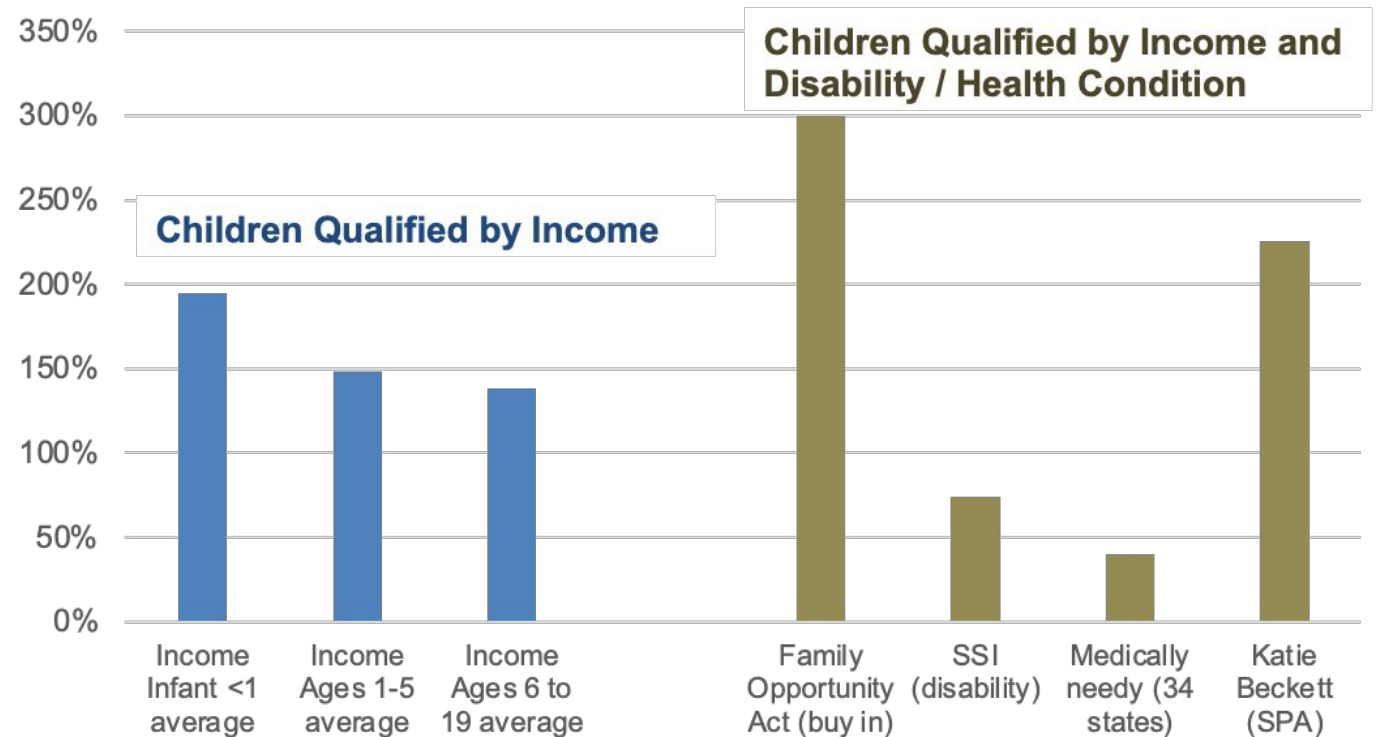


Pathways to Medicaid for Children with Disabilities

Medicaid eligibility pathways include:

- Income alone
- Income PLUS disability
 - Family Opportunity Act “buy in”
 - SSI disability
 - Medically Needy
 - Katie Beckett
 - Other waivers for people with disabilities (e.g., home- and community- based services-HCBS)

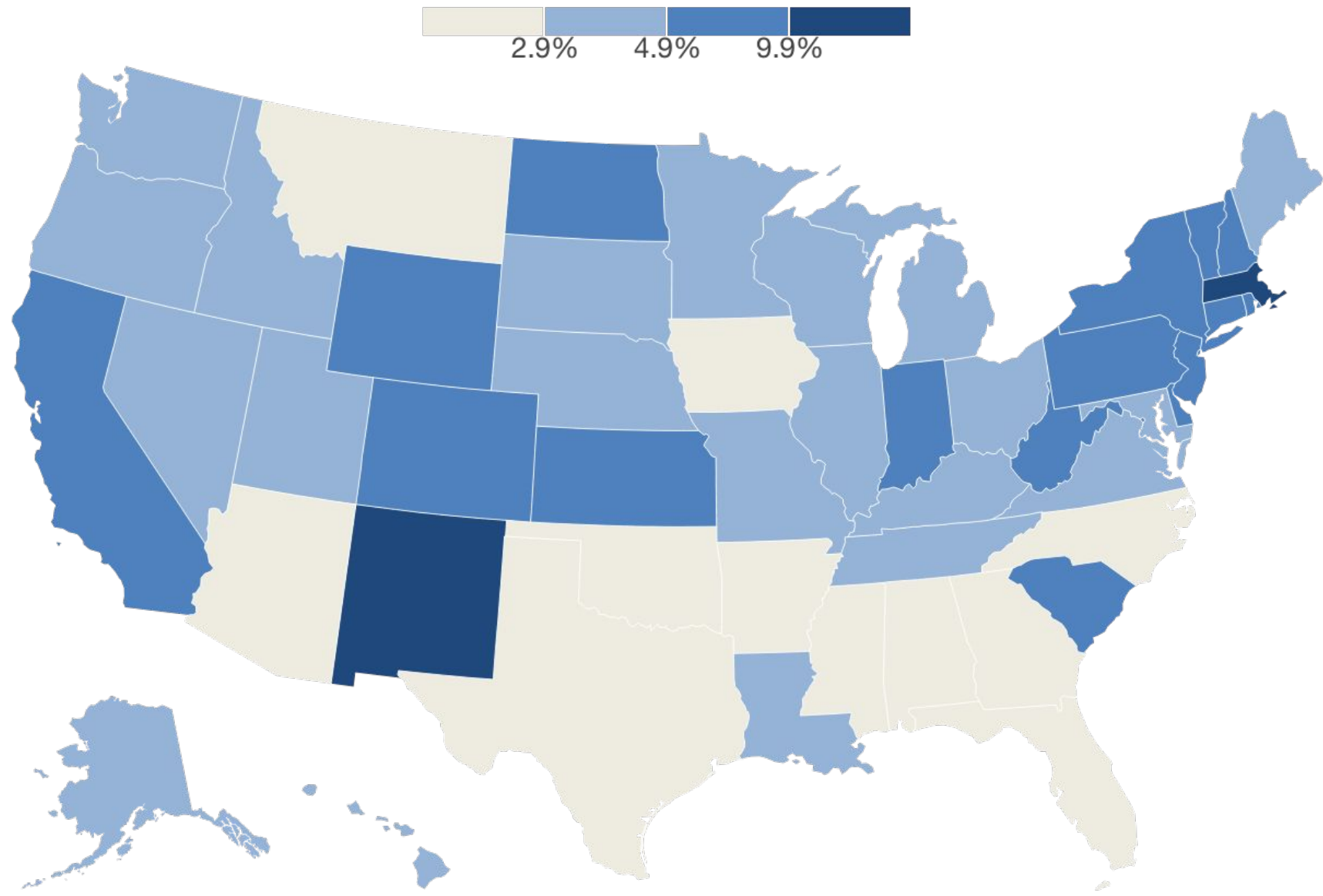
Children’s Eligibility as a Percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL), 2024





Role of Medicaid in Part C Early Intervention Programs

Percentage of Population Under Age 3 Receiving Early Intervention Services Under IDEA Part C, 2023



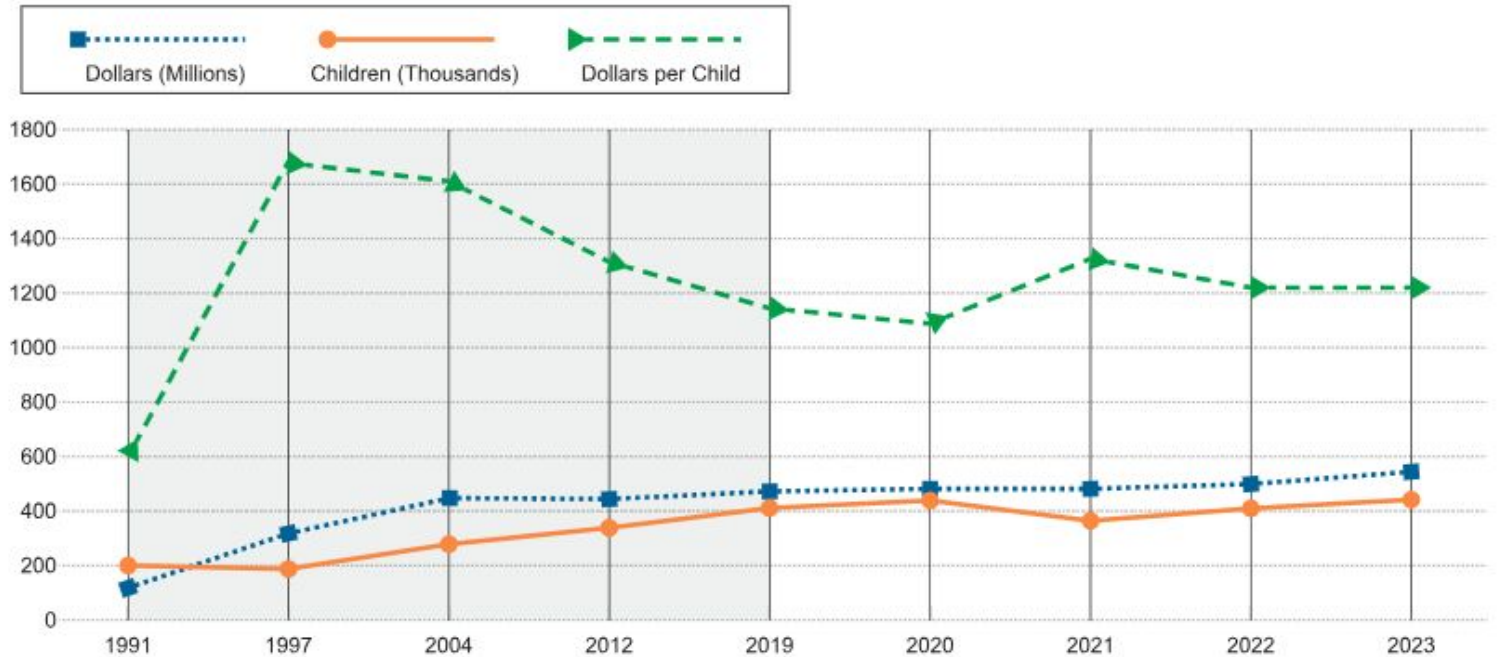
Medicaid and IDEA Part C Early Intervention

Topic	Medicaid	IDEA Part C Early Intervention (EI)
Purpose	For the purpose of enabling each State to furnish medical assistance for individuals whose income and resources are insufficient to meet the costs of necessary medical services. The goal of (Medicaid’s child benefit) EPSDT is to ensure that individual eligible children get the health care they need, when they need it, in the most appropriate setting.	The general purpose of the IDEA Part C is to aid states in creating and maintaining “ a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system. ” EI programs designed to ensure that all infants and toddlers with diagnosed disabilities or developmental delays are identified and evaluated and have an individualized plan developed to meet their and their families’ unique needs.
Eligibility	Income and categorical eligibility criteria including disability status, which vary by state.	No income criteria, eligibility based on health and disability status, which vary by state
Benefits / entitlement to services	Child health benefit = Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT). Broad set of screening, diagnosis and treatment/intervention services.	Services in Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) frequently include: occupational & physical therapy, vision, speech/ audiology, nutrition, special instruction, psychological and social work, and health services, along with service coordination.
Financing	Open-ended federal matching contribution for a percentage of costs for services	Federal grants to states based on the percentage of children under age 3. Fixed amounts without regard to program costs or number of children served.

Federal Part C grants to states fall short of spending per child / expenditures for program

Part C Infant and Toddler Program Federal Appropriations and National Child Count 1987–2023

[Download PDF](#)

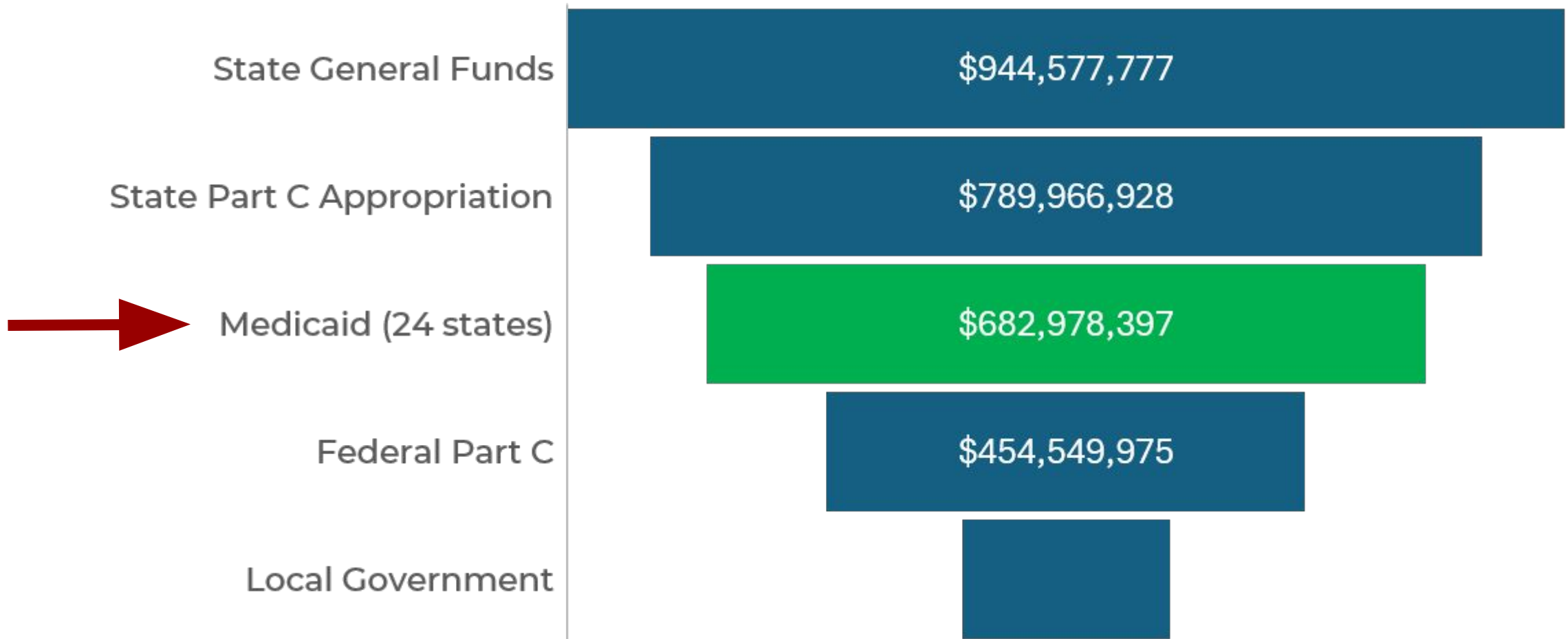


FFY (Federal Fiscal Year): For example, in FFY 1991, 194,363 children were receiving services on December 1, 1990.

Dollars (Millions): Amount of IDEA Part C funds distributed to states.

Source: [Department of Education Budget Tables](#)

Part C EI Funds Come from Various Sources



2023 Part C Program Survey Findings

(n=46 state EI programs)

- On average, states reported **55% of Part C children were enrolled in Medicaid**, ranging from 0% to 95%.
- Medicaid represented **39% of Part C funding**, ranging from 5% to 79%
- Nearly all (44 of 46) states reported using Medicaid funding for **both administration and direct services**.
- For the 22 states that reported on funding level, Medicaid totaled nearly \$683 million in financing for Part C EI services.

STATUS OF PROPOSALS TO CHANGE MEDICAID POLICY

AS OF APRIL 1, 2025

POLITICO PRO

   Gift arti

Trump may 'love and cherish' Medicaid. He and Congress aren't ruling out cutting it.



Even Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), a loyal Trump ally, said during [a Fox Business interview](#) on Monday that the Medicaid cuts in the House bill could “decimate” his state, adding that Republicans need to “find a way around it.”

KFF HEALTH NEWS & POLITIFACT HEALTHCHECK

Bill That Congressman Says Protects Medicaid Doesn't — And Would Likely Require Cutting It

POLITICO PRO

Former GOP lawmaker warns of political perils of Medicaid cuts

Larry Bucshon told POLITICO Republican lawmakers need to be careful about the massive cuts they're considering for the program.

Proposals for Medicaid Policy Change

Limits on federal funds

- Some proposals would impose a **per capita cap** on federal Medicaid funding or use Medicaid **block grant**.
- Restructures Medicaid financing: ***States would receive a fixed amount of federal Medicaid funds regardless of actual costs.***

Other structural threats

- Impose work requirements.
- Restrict state use of provider taxes.
- Increase rules and red tape as barriers to enrollment.
- Eliminate 90% FMAP matching rate for ACA Medicaid expansion (adults).
- Restrict coverage of immigrants.

Where Things Stand

- Need Concurrent Budget Resolution to pass House *and* Senate
 - Sets targets for spending and cuts
 - Medicaid cut of at least \$880B under consideration
 - Likely vote April
- Next prepare for Budget Reconciliation bill
 - Details on how to reach spending targets being discussed now

House and Senate FY 2025 Budget Resolutions As Passed in Both Houses

	Senate Concurrent Resolution 7 (02/21/2025)	House Concurrent Resolution 14 (02/25/2025)
Target Medicaid-related reconciliation spending reductions	<p><i>Spending reduction target: \$1 Billion (floor)</i></p> <p>“TITLE II—RECONCILIATION...SEC. 2002. RECONCILIATION IN THE SENATE...(f) COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.—The Committee on Finance of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction that reduce the deficit by not less than \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.” (link)</p>	<p><i>Spending reduction target: \$880 Billion (floor)</i></p> <p>“TITLE II—RECONCILIATION AND RELATED MATTERS...SEC. 2001. RECONCILIATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES...(4) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—The Committee on Energy and Commerce shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than \$880,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.” (link)</p>
Additional instructions	<p><i>Proposes \$1 billion spending reduction for House</i></p> <p>“TITLE II—RECONCILIATION...SEC. 2001. RECONCILIATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES...(d) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—The Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction that reduce the deficit by not less than \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.” (link)</p>	<p><i>No proposed Senate instructions</i></p>
Additional language	<p><i>Focuses on vulnerable populations</i></p> <p>“TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS...SEC. 3003. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING MEDICARE AND MEDICAID. The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the</p>	<p><i>Consequences of not meeting spending reduction target</i></p> <p>“TITLE IV—POLICY STATEMENTS...SEC. 4002. POLICY STATEMENT ON MANDATORY SPENDING REDUCTION. (b) POLICY ON MANDATORY</p>

Rebecca and her family traveled to Washington DC in 2024 to participate in Strolling Thunder where they were able to speak directly to Michigan lawmakers about the national child care crisis.



Rebecca's daughter, Indigo— she'll be 2 in May!



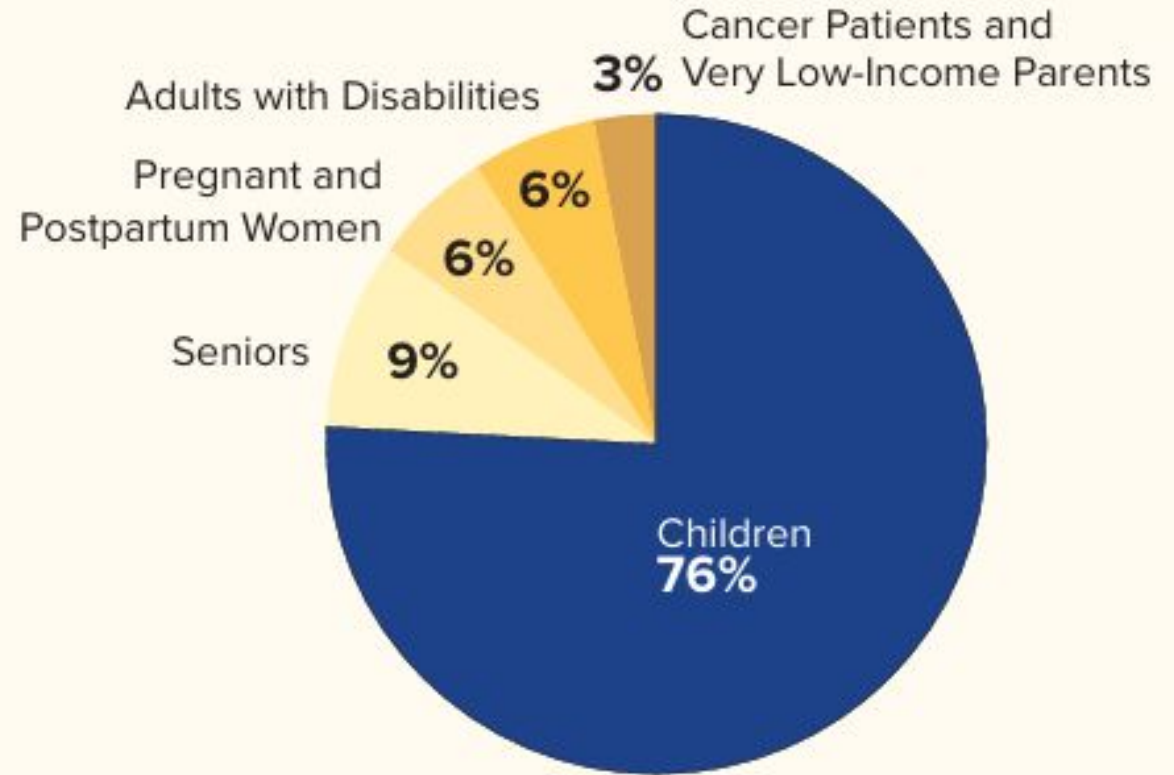


Perspectives from Texas

Adriana Kohler
Policy Director

In Texas, Medicaid primarily provides health insurance to children, pregnant and postpartum women, people with disabilities, and seniors.

Texas' Medicaid Enrollment by Eligibility Group¹



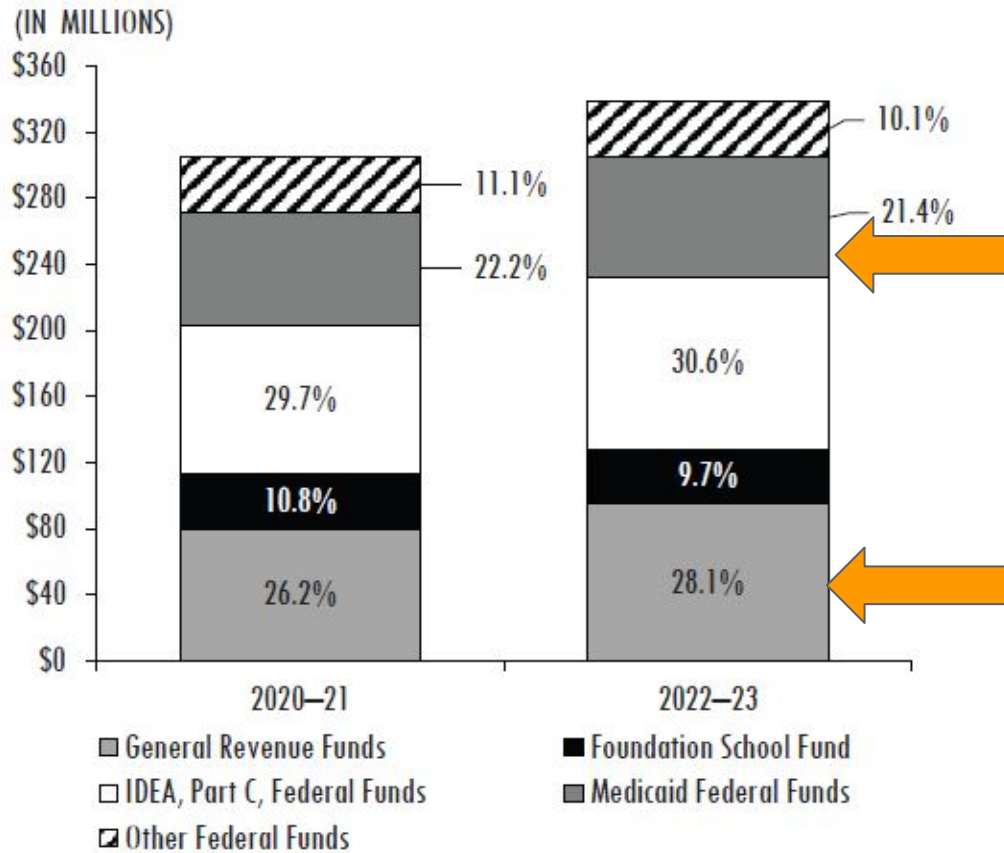
“Medicaid has been a lifesaver for us.”



When Catreyal, Camille, and Journii’s mom died, their grandma took them in.

Fortunately, Medicaid health insurance covers the kids’ annual check ups, trips to the dentist, and medicine when they’re sick — plus physical therapy and nurses to help Catreyal manage cerebral palsy.

FIGURE 145
EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS BY FUND TYPE
2020-21 AND 2022-23 BIENNIA



NOTE: IDEA, Part C=the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C, Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities.

SOURCE: Legislative Budget Board.

- Texas Early Intervention leverages over a dozen funding sources

Medicaid federal funds

● **Medicaid is a critical source of funding for Texas' ECI program**

State funds, including state Medicaid match

- Not included in this graph:
 - Some therapy services funded through Medicaid and CHIP
 - Private insurance
 - Family Cost Share
 - Locally collected funds

Cautionary Tale

Starting in 2011 and continuing in subsequent years, TX state policymakers made changes that affected infants and toddlers in EI

- Decreased state funding for EI (11% drop in funding)
- Reduced Medicaid reimbursement rates for children's therapies offered through EI and private home health agencies (speech, physical, occupational therapies)
- Narrowed program eligibility

Cautionary Tale

Impact was devastating

- EI providers dropped out (58 providers in 2011; now 40)
- Decline in kids' enrollment (14% drop 2011 - 2015; much bigger drop in certain areas)
- Reduced staff for Child Find outreach activities
- Increased staff caseloads that threaten program quality
- Participating providers take on larger service areas
- Narrower eligibility meant many toddlers entered EI later (2+ years old) and/or kids had higher needs once enrolled

Progress made over the last few years

- Steady boost in state funding over the last few years
- Kids enrollment in EI has increased, especially after COVID

Stable funding through Medicaid is critical

“[We cover a] 20,000 mile service area, but don’t have enough staff to carry the work and travel.”

– ECI provider who participated in the 2023 survey

38% 

State funding per child for ECI has dropped by 38 percent in real dollars since 2010.

What You Can Do

- ✓ **Educate policymakers and key decision makers** about the value of Medicaid and its role in the health and development of infants, toddlers, and their families.
- ✓ **Highlight the harmful impacts** Medicaid cuts would have on families, early intervention providers, the health system, state budgets and state economies.
- ✓ **Leverage power of coalitions and partnerships** to raise awareness of the importance of Medicaid for children, early intervention, supports for other children with disabilities, child care workforce, and more.
- ✓ **Partner** with groups representing the spectrum of Medicaid beneficiaries (e.g. advocates for seniors, adults with disabilities).



Reactions and Reflections?

For More Information

Website/Say Ahhh! Blog:

<https://ccf.georgetown.edu/>

State Coverage Data, Info:

- [Medicaid's Role in Small Towns and Rural Areas - CCF report, state and county maps](#)
- [Medicaid/CHIP Coverage by Congressional District & by School Districts, 2019-2023](#)

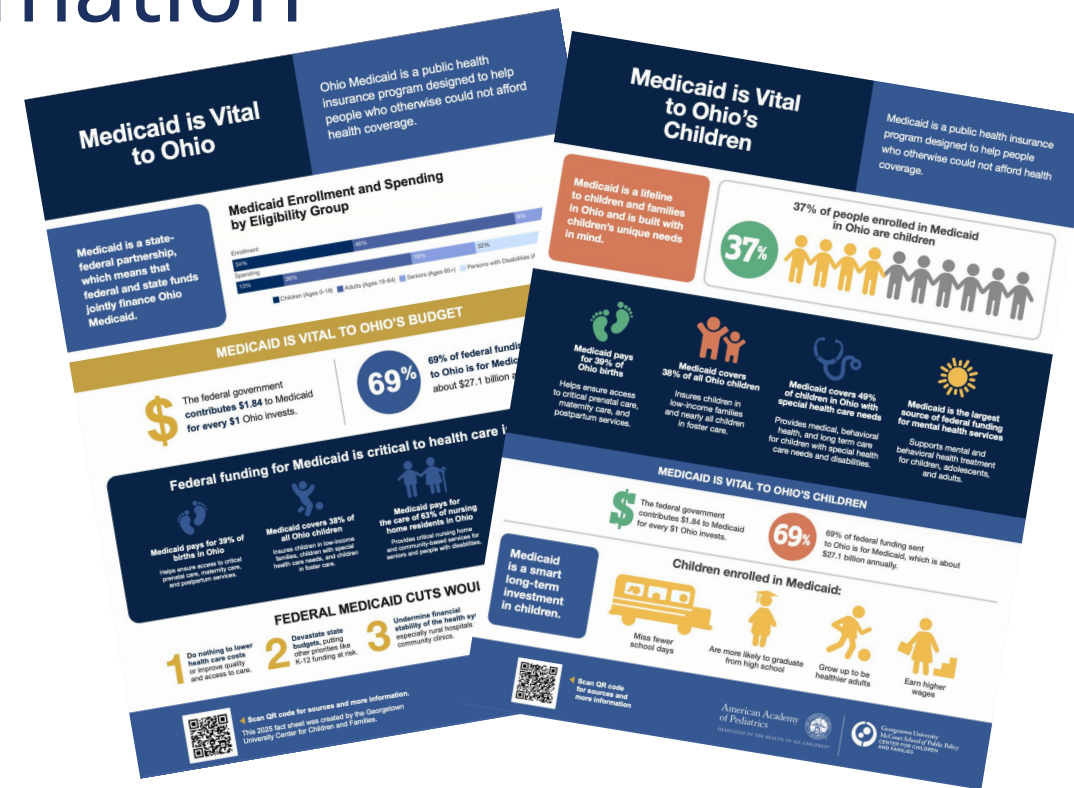
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[Medicaid 2025 & Fact Sheets](#) - 50 state fact sheets and a growing library of population-specific briefs including [Medicaid & Early Intervention](#)