

There are 11.2 million children in the United States with special health care needs, such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and autism.

Children with special health care needs may require many services that may not be covered adequately by private insurance, such as nursing care, therapies to address developmental delays, and mental health counseling.

Medicaid currently provides federal matching funds with no pre-set limit to help states cover children with special health care needs. Medicaid financing reductions and restructuring as proposed in the American Health Care Act could limit states' ability to care for these children.

## Many Children with Special Health Care Needs Have Multiple Needs and Live in Low-Income Families

**46%** of children with special health care needs have **difficulty** functioning in **4 or more** areas, such as breathing, walking, or communicating.

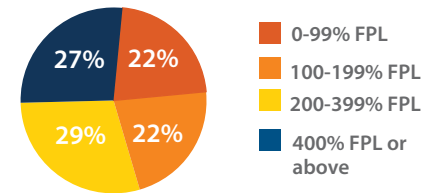


Nearly 3 in 5 are white.



Nearly 4 in 5 are age 6 or older.

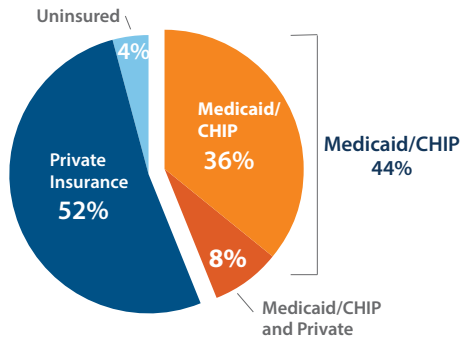
Nearly 3 in 4 children with special health care needs live in **low- or middle-income** families with incomes below 400% of the federal poverty level.



100% FPL = \$20,420/year for a family of 3 in 2017

## Medicaid Facilitates Access to Care and Lets Many Children with Special Health Care Needs Live at Home

**44%** of children with special health care needs have **Medicaid** or other **public insurance**.



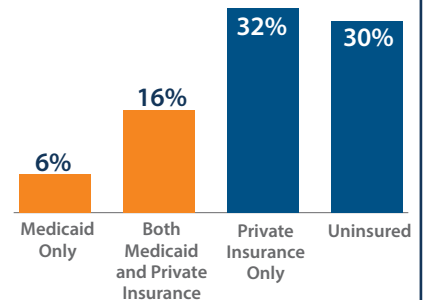
49 states and DC have used state options to **expand Medicaid eligibility** to cover more children with disabilities, enabling them to receive **care at home**.



Medicaid provides children with a comprehensive set of **physical and mental health services**, prescription drugs, tracheotomies and feeding tubes, medical equipment, and occupational therapy.

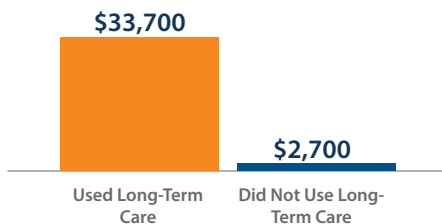
Medicaid provides **protection** against **high out-of-pocket costs** for children with special health needs.

% WHO PAID \$1000+ IN ANNUAL OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES

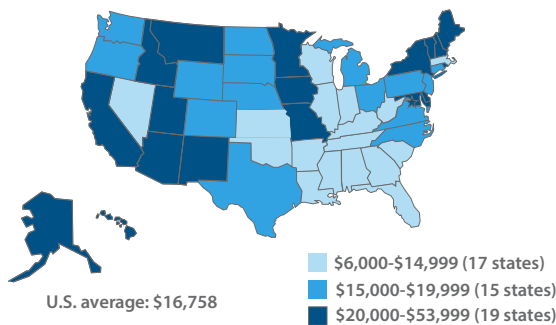


## Reduced Federal Medicaid Financing Could Limit Coverage and Services for These Children

Given their more intensive needs, Medicaid spending per enrollee is over **12 times** higher for children who use long-term care services compared to those who don't as of 2011.



Among children with disabilities, Medicaid per enrollee spending varies across states.



**Medicaid** makes treatment **affordable** by limiting out-of-pocket costs and providing comprehensive coverage.

**Limits** on Medicaid coverage and financing could **set back efforts** to care for children with special health care needs.

Sources for this document are available at: <http://kff.org/infographic/medicaids-role-for-children-with-special-health-care-needs>.

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Headquarters: 2400 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025 | Phone 650-854-9400  
 Washington Offices and Barbara Jordan Conference Center: 1330 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005 | Phone 202-347-5270  
[www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org) | Email Alerts: [kff.org/email](mailto:kff.org/email) | [facebook.com/KaiserFamilyFoundation](https://facebook.com/KaiserFamilyFoundation) | [twitter.com/KaiserFamFound](https://twitter.com/KaiserFamFound)

Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues, the Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Menlo Park, California.

Table 1: State Indicators of Medicaid's Role for Children with Special Health Care Needs

State	Per Enrollee Spending for Children with Disabilities, 2011	Optional Eligibility Pathways		
		Katie Beckett State Plan Option, 2015	Family Opportunity Act Buy-in for Children with Significant Disabilities, 2015	1915(c) Waiver for Children with Disabilities, 2013
<b>Expanded Medicaid/Republican Governor</b>				
Arizona	\$32,303	No	No	Yes
Arkansas	\$14,317	No	No	Yes
Illinois	\$12,534	No	No	Yes
Indiana	\$14,827	No	No	No
Iowa	\$21,263	No	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	\$12,442	No	No	No
Maryland	\$20,678	No	No	Yes
Massachusetts	\$10,351	Yes	No	Yes
Michigan	\$16,994	Yes	No	Yes
Nevada	\$12,391	Yes	No	No
New Hampshire	\$53,557	Yes	No	No
New Jersey	\$18,759	No	No	No
New Mexico	\$21,966	No	No	Yes
North Dakota	\$18,360	No	Yes	Yes
Ohio	\$15,499	No	No	No
Vermont	\$42,030	Yes	No	Yes
<i>State Average</i>	<i>\$21,142</i>	<i>5/16</i>	<i>2/16</i>	<i>10/16</i>
<b>Expanded Medicaid/Democratic or Independent Governor</b>				
Alaska	\$32,734	Yes	No	Yes
California	\$24,909	No	No	Yes
Colorado	\$17,834	No	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	\$17,273	No	No	Yes
Delaware	\$20,091	Yes	No	No
DC	\$21,952	No	No	No
Hawaii	\$21,472	No	No	No
Louisiana	\$11,264	No	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	\$25,425	Yes	No	No
Montana	\$21,203	No	No	Yes
New York	\$20,082	No	No	Yes
Oregon	\$18,737	No	No	Yes
Pennsylvania	\$16,634	No	No	Yes
Rhode Island	\$30,043	Yes	No	Yes
Washington	\$17,152	No	No	Yes
West Virginia	\$14,045	Yes	No	No
<i>State Average</i>	<i>\$20,678</i>	<i>5/16</i>	<i>2/16</i>	<i>11/16</i>
<b>Did Not Expand Medicaid/Republican Governor</b>				
Alabama	\$11,020	No	No	No
Florida	\$13,373	No	No	Yes
Georgia	\$7,829	Yes	No	Yes
Idaho	\$23,073	Yes	No	Yes
Kansas	\$14,282	No	No	Yes
Maine	\$22,424	No	No	No
Mississippi	\$11,963	Yes	No	No
Missouri	\$20,759	No	No	Yes
Nebraska	\$17,451	Yes	No	Yes
Oklahoma	\$14,460	Yes	No	Yes
South Carolina	\$13,366	Yes	No	Yes
South Dakota	\$16,689	Yes	No	No
Tennessee	\$6,945	No	No	No
Texas	\$18,261	No	Yes	Yes
Utah	\$21,683	No	No	Yes
Wisconsin	\$9,950	Yes	No	Yes
Wyoming	\$18,684	No	No	Yes
<i>State Average</i>	<i>\$15,424</i>	<i>8/17</i>	<i>1/17</i>	<i>12/17</i>
<b>Did Not Expand Medicaid/Democratic Governor</b>				
North Carolina	\$17,971	No	No	Yes
Virginia	\$15,418	No	No	No
<i>State Average</i>	<i>\$16,695</i>	<i>0/2</i>	<i>0/2</i>	<i>1/2</i>

NOTE: Children with disabilities represent a smaller subset of children with special health care needs.