



HWMN Research Hub

Helping Families and Providers Stay Informed

This page is updated regularly with reliable resources related to Medicaid, federal and state policy changes, and how executive actions may affect services for keiki and families in Hawai'i. It is intended to support patients, families, and community providers with helpful, plain-language tools to stay informed.

No personal or patient information is collected or shared.

PAGES:

- [Feb 2, 2025 - Federal Funding Freeze and Medicaid](#)
- [February 4, 2025 - Federal Funding Freeze: Uncertainty for Medicaid and Hawaii's Most Vulnerable](#)
- [February 6, 2025: Trump Administration's Policy Shifts: Potential Impact on Special Education, DEIA, and Federal Funding](#)
- [February 19, 2025: Trump Administration's Policy Overhaul: DEI Rollback, Federal Layoffs, and Legal Challenges](#)
- [February 20, 2025: Trump Administration Moves to Dismantle Department of Education](#)
- [February 21, 2025: Medicaid on the Chopping Block? Senate Budget Moves Spark Debate](#)
- [February 26, 2025: Medicaid Funding Reductions](#)
- [March 5, 2025: Research for AI](#)
- [March 11, 2025: Medicaid IDEA DOE Updates](#)
- [March 19, 2025: Medicaid Medicare Cuts Impact](#)
- [March 21, 2025: Recent Executive Actions and Their Implications](#)
- [April 8, 2025: DOE Cuts Hawaii Impact](#)
- [April 27, 2025: Medicaid and Medicare Cuts](#)
- [May 8, 2025: Medicaid Cuts 2025 Updates](#)
- [May 30, 2025: Legislative Update: "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" \(OBBBA\)](#)
- [June 06, 2025: Medicaid & Medicare Legislative Moves](#)
- [June 25, 2025: Big Picture on Medicaid Cuts](#)
- [July 02, 2025: Medicaid Medicare Bill Update](#)

Feb 2, 2025 - Federal Funding Freeze and Medicaid:

On January 28, 2025, President Trump's administration issued an order pausing federal grants and loans, including Medicaid, to review spending. This action caused nationwide confusion, with reports of Medicaid portals being down across the country, impacting millions. However, a federal judge temporarily blocked the freeze, allowing mandatory programs like Medicaid to continue.

Source: REUTERS.COM

https://www.reuters.com/world/trump-orders-pause-all-federal-grants-loans-2025-01-28/?utm_source

In Hawaii, Medicaid is crucial, covering about half of the state's children and a third of residents. Any reduction in federal funding could significantly impact these populations.

Source: HAWAIIPUBLICRADIO.ORG

https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2024-12-05/how-federal-funding-cuts-to-medicaid-could-impact-hawaii?utm_source

Insurance Reimbursement:

The uncertainty surrounding federal funding may lead to delays or changes in reimbursement rates from Medicaid and other insurers. While mandatory programs like Medicaid are expected to continue, the status of other programs remains uncertain, potentially affecting reimbursement schedules and rates.

Impact on Non-Profit and For-Profit Organizations in Hawaii:

The funding freeze has created uncertainty for organizations relying on federal grants and loans. While the freeze was temporarily blocked, the situation remains fluid, and organizations may face challenges in planning and budgeting.

Recent Executive Orders:

In addition to the funding freeze, President Trump signed several executive orders affecting federal operations, including directives on federal employee work arrangements and diversity programs. These orders have caused significant controversy and legal challenges.

Source: THEGUARDIAN.COM

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2025/jan/28/donald-trump-executive-orders-transgender-troops-dei-covid-us-politics-live?utm_source

Medicaid payment processing was inaccessible on Tuesday morning due to a federal funding freeze. However, the White House clarified in a follow-up memo that Medicaid should not be affected, and by late Tuesday afternoon, the administration stated that the Medicaid payment portal was restored. No payments were officially reported as stopped, but states temporarily experienced difficulty accessing funds.

Current Medicaid Status:

1. Medicaid was inaccessible Tuesday morning but restored by the afternoon.
2. No payments were officially reported as halted.
3. Some states (Illinois, Florida, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Georgia) had trouble accessing Medicaid funds earlier in the day.
4. There are no reported Medicaid shutdowns as of now.

Future Medicaid Cuts:

1. No immediate cuts have been implemented.
2. However, House Republicans are considering reductions, such as per capita caps and work requirements (Georgetown CCF, 01/09/2025).

To check for updates, monitor:

1. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website
2. National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) statements
3. Congressional reports on federal budget negotiations

Source:

https://www.politico.com/news/2025/01/28/state-medicaid-payments-inaccessible-funding-freeze-00201062?utm_source

Direct Access in Hawaii:

Hawaii permits direct access to physical therapy, allowing patients to receive PT services without a physician's referral. This means we can treat patients directly, including those seeking pre-injury assessments or sports medicine services.

Source: THERAPYDIAKONA.COM

https://therapydiakona.com/no-doctor-referral-needed/?utm_source

Cash Pay Services:

Operating on a cash-pay basis is permissible for physical therapists in Hawaii. This model enables us to offer services to patients who prefer not to use insurance or who are uninsured. However, it's crucial to ensure that our cash pay practices comply with all relevant laws and regulations, including those related to "surprise billing." As of January 1, 2022, new rules require that we provide good faith estimates of the costs of services to uninsured or self-pay patients.

Source: APTA.ORG

https://www.apta.org/your-practice/payment/cash-practice?utm_source

Implications for Insurance Contracts:

While we can offer cash pay services, we must carefully review our contracts with insurance providers. Some agreements may have clauses that restrict or prohibit offering services outside of the insurance network or accepting cash payments for services covered by insurance. It's essential to understand these terms to avoid potential breaches of contract.

February 4, 2025 - Federal Funding Freeze: Uncertainty for Medicaid and Hawaii's Most Vulnerable

The situation regarding the federal funding freeze and its impact on Medicaid has evolved. On January 28, 2025, President Trump's administration issued an order to temporarily halt federal grants and loans to review spending, which led to widespread confusion and disruptions in Medicaid payment portals across all 50 states. This action caused significant concern, given that Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program cover over 79 million Americans, funding nearly 40% of births in the U.S.

THEGUARDIAN.COM

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/28/trump-federal-funding-freeze-medicaid?utm_source=

In response to the freeze, a federal judge issued a temporary stay, allowing mandatory programs like Medicaid to continue operating. Despite this, the initial freeze and subsequent legal actions have created uncertainty for organizations that rely on federal funding, including those in Hawaii. In Hawaii, Medicaid is crucial, covering about half of the state's children and a third of residents. Any reduction in federal funding could significantly impact these populations.

Additionally, seven families with transgender or nonbinary children, along with advocacy groups, have filed a lawsuit against President Trump's executive order halting federal support for gender-affirming health care for those under 19. The executive order stops funding through programs like Medicaid and TRICARE, affecting access to necessary medical services.

APNEWS.COM

<https://apnews.com/article/trump-transgender-gender-affirming-care-lawsuit-19-cf1467fd53ebb8a125a863c345508e4c>

House Republicans are currently divided on the extent of budget cuts, with some members advocating for significant reductions targeting programs like Medicaid, while others prefer smaller cuts to avoid backlash from their working-class base and essential services. This division could impact future funding and policies related to Medicaid.

WSJ.COM

https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/republican-spending-cuts-federal-budget-8ae5e9e1?utm_source=

February 6, 2025: Trump Administration's Policy Shifts: Potential Impact on Special Education, DEIA, and Federal Funding

As of February 7, 2025, the Trump administration has initiated significant changes that could impact services for children with special needs. Notably, efforts are underway to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education, aiming to reduce federal oversight of schools. This move could affect programs like the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which provides funding and support for children with disabilities.

[cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com)

Additionally, the administration has taken steps to eliminate Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) initiatives within federal operations and among federal contractors. This includes prohibiting private organizations from conducting DEIA employment programs for jobs created by federal contracts. Such actions may influence the availability of inclusive services and support for children with special needs.

On January 22, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity," which terminates Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) initiatives within federal operations and among federal contractors. This order prohibits private organizations from implementing DEIA employment programs for positions created through federal contracts. The administration asserts that this move aims to protect civil rights and promote merit-based opportunities.

[whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)

In response to this executive order, several major companies, including Google, have announced plans to reassess or discontinue their DEIA policies, particularly those related to hiring practices. These changes reflect the evolving legal and political landscape surrounding diversity efforts in the workplace.

[marketwatch.com](https://www.marketwatch.com)

While this executive order does not specifically target programs like the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which provides funding and support for children with disabilities, the broader reduction of DEIA initiatives could indirectly affect the availability of inclusive services and support for children with special needs. It's essential to stay informed about these developments, as they may have significant implications for such services.

[thetimes.co.uk](https://www.thetimes.co.uk)

While there is no specific executive order directly targeting IDEA at this time, the broader efforts to reduce federal involvement in education and DEIA programs could indirectly affect the funding and services provided under IDEA. It's essential to stay informed about these developments, as they may have significant implications for children with special needs and the services they rely on.

President Trump has signed a series of executive orders since his inauguration on January 20, 2025. While the exact number is not 200, these orders cover a wide range of policy areas. Notable examples include:

- **Executive Order 14179:** "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence," signed on January 23, 2025, aims to enhance U.S. leadership in AI by revoking certain policies and establishing a plan to promote AI development.
en.wikipedia.org
- **Executive Order 14162:** "Putting America First In International Environmental Agreements," signed on January 20, 2025, directs the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement and related international climate commitments.
en.wikipedia.org
- **Executive Order 14172:** "Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness," signed on January 20, 2025, aims to rename national landmarks, including reinstating "Mount McKinley" and renaming the Gulf of Mexico to the "Gulf of America."
en.wikipedia.org

Regarding the federal funding freeze and its impact on Medicaid, recent developments indicate that Republican governors are endorsing President Trump's deep budget cuts in the second term, despite the significant adverse effects these cuts will have on state budgets. Federal funds, which form over a third of state-government revenues, come with mandates that remain even when funding decreases. Major cuts are anticipated across federal-state programs including Medicaid, education, emergency management, housing, and nutrition, heavily impacting state responsibilities for social safety-net services.

nymag.com

Senate Democrats are actively opposing these budgetary decisions. They have pledged to hold the floor all night in protest against President Trump's budget pick, Russell Vought, who is a key figure behind Project 2025. This initiative includes significant budget cuts affecting various federal programs, including Medicaid.

theguardian.com

February 19, 2025: Trump Administration's Policy Overhaul: DEI Rollback, Federal Layoffs, and Legal Challenges

https://youtu.be/ThaD_y1u40k

Executive Orders and Policy Changes:

- **Rescinding DEI Initiatives:** President Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to eliminate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) considerations from their operations. This order mandates the termination of DEI-related offices, positions, and programs within the federal government.
[whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)
- **Federal Contracting Revisions:** The administration has instructed that federal contracts should no longer consider a company's DEI practices in procurement decisions. Existing contracts containing DEI clauses are to be renegotiated if they have six months or more remaining.
[wsj.com](https://www.wsj.com)
- **Executive Order 14173:** This order prohibits private organizations from implementing DEI programs for jobs created through federal contracts. It also revokes certain provisions of the Equal Employment Opportunity order from 1965, specifically concerning federal contracting jobs.
en.wikipedia.org

Administrative Actions:

- **Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE):** Led by Elon Musk, DOGE has initiated significant layoffs across multiple federal agencies, including the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). These actions aim to reduce perceived inefficiencies and have resulted in operational disruptions, such as the abrupt closure of the JFK Presidential Library.

Widespread Layoffs: Since January 2025, DOGE has overseen the termination or layoff of thousands of federal employees across various agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, Education Department, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, IRS, National Park Service, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Agriculture Department, and State Department. These actions aim to streamline government operations and reduce spending.

Approximately 75,000 federal employees have accepted "deferred resignation" offers, while numerous probationary employees with less than a year of service have been laid off.

Program Freezes: Major grants, loans, and foreign aid programs have been frozen, leading to significant disruptions in federal services and operations.

Inspector General Dismissals: President Trump has dismissed at least 17 inspectors general, raising concerns about oversight and accountability within the government.

apnews.com

Leadership and Legal Challenges:

- **Elon Musk's Role:** While Elon Musk serves as a senior adviser to President Trump, the White House has clarified that he is not officially part of DOGE. His role is advisory, focusing on reducing federal spending and eliminating waste.
apnews.com
- **Legal Scrutiny:** A federal judge recently declined to immediately block Musk or DOGE from accessing federal data or conducting worker layoffs. The judge acknowledged legitimate questions regarding Musk's authority but found insufficient evidence of severe legal harm to warrant a temporary restraining order.
apnews.com

Concerns Among Minority-Owned Businesses: Black business leaders have expressed concerns that the rollback of DEI initiatives may exacerbate existing disparities, limiting opportunities for minority-owned businesses in federal contracting.

reuters.com

Medicaid Implications:

- **Potential Service Disruptions:** The layoffs within CMS, responsible for overseeing Medicaid, raise concerns about potential disruptions in services and access to care for beneficiaries.
businessinsider.com

February 20, 2025: Trump Administration Moves to Dismantle Department of Education

The Trump administration is actively pursuing plans to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). President Trump has expressed intentions to shut down the agency, leading to widespread concern among DOE employees about potential job losses and the future of educational programs.

theguardian.com

In line with these plans, the administration has nominated Linda McMahon, former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, as the new Secretary of Education. McMahon has indicated a desire to restructure the DOE, aligning with President Trump's goal of eliminating the department. She has suggested reallocating certain functions to other federal agencies, such as moving civil rights enforcement to the Department of Justice.

apnews.com

A significant aspect of the dismantling process involves the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by Elon Musk. DOGE has been tasked with identifying and cutting what it deems unnecessary government spending. This initiative has resulted in substantial layoffs and the defunding of critical departments, including Education. Critics argue that these actions are causing severe disruptions to essential services without effectively reducing government debt.

theatlantic.com

The administration's efforts also target Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs. For instance, Connecticut schools have been given a two-week ultimatum to eliminate DEI initiatives or risk losing federal funding. This directive has led to confusion and concern among educators, who fear the loss of critical support for high-needs districts and special education programs.

ctinsider.com

Additionally, the potential dismantling of the DOE raises questions about the future of federal student loans. The department currently oversees a \$1.6 trillion student loan portfolio. Proposals suggest transferring this responsibility to the Treasury Department, which could lead to significant changes in loan management and repayment structures.

abcnews.go.com

While the complete elimination of the DOE would require congressional approval—a challenging prospect—the administration is actively working to diminish the department's influence and reassign its functions to other federal entities.

The impact on IDEA

The Trump administration's initiative to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) poses significant challenges to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the services provided under Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). IDEA ensures that students with disabilities receive free appropriate public education, tailored to their unique needs through IEPs. The DOE plays a crucial role in enforcing these provisions and distributing federal funds to support special education.

Potential Impacts on IDEA and IEP Services:

- **Funding Disruptions:** The DOE allocates substantial funds to assist states in delivering special education services. Dismantling the department could lead to uncertainties in funding distribution, potentially resulting in reduced resources for special education programs. This financial instability may hinder schools' ability to provide necessary services and accommodations outlined in students' IEPs.

urban.org

- **Inconsistent Enforcement:** The DOE ensures compliance with IDEA, holding states accountable for providing appropriate services to students with disabilities. Without a centralized federal

authority, enforcement of these standards may become inconsistent, leading to disparities in the quality and availability of special education services across different states and districts.

[urban.org](https://www.urban.org)

- **Civil Rights Protections:** The DOE's Office for Civil Rights addresses discrimination and ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities. Eliminating the department could weaken these protections, making it more challenging to address violations and uphold the rights of students with disabilities.

[urban.org](https://www.urban.org)

Effects on Children Served by Made To Move Pediatric Physical Therapy:

As a clinic dedicated to providing skilled pediatric physical therapy, changes to IDEA and the DOE's structure could directly impact the children we serve:

- **Reduced Access to Services:** If schools face funding cuts or inconsistencies in special education provisions, children may experience delays or denials in receiving necessary physical therapy services as part of their IEPs. This could lead to increased referrals to outpatient clinics like Made To Move, potentially overwhelming available resources.
- **Increased Demand for Private Services:** Families might seek external providers to fill gaps left by public schools, leading to higher demand for outpatient pediatric physical therapy. While this could expand our client base, it may also strain our clinic's capacity and resources.
- **Financial Strain on Families:** Without adequate school-based services, families may need to bear the financial burden of private therapy, which could be challenging for many, potentially limiting access to necessary interventions for some children.

Impact on the Pediatric Outpatient Physical Therapy Market:

- **Market Growth:** An increase in demand for private services could lead to growth in the pediatric outpatient physical therapy market. Clinics may need to expand their services, hire additional staff, or extend hours to accommodate the influx of patients.
- **Insurance and Reimbursement Challenges:** With more families relying on private therapy, issues related to insurance coverage and reimbursement rates may become more prominent, affecting both providers and recipients of care.
- **Collaboration with Educational Institutions:** Outpatient clinics might need to establish stronger partnerships with schools to coordinate care and ensure continuity of services for children transitioning between school-based and outpatient therapies.

In summary, dismantling the DOE could have profound effects on IDEA enforcement and the provision of IEP services, directly influencing the accessibility and quality of care for children requiring pediatric physical therapy. Clinics like Made To Move may face increased demand and operational challenges as families seek alternative avenues to secure essential services for their children.

February 21, 2025: Medicaid on the Chopping Block? Senate Budget Moves Spark Debate

Recent developments in Washington, D.C., indicate potential significant changes to Medicaid funding. The Senate recently passed a Republican budget resolution by a 52-48 vote, aiming to unlock \$342 billion in spending over four years, with equivalent offsetting cuts. This resolution sets the stage for the budget reconciliation process, allowing legislation to pass with a simple majority, potentially facilitating President Trump's fiscal agenda without needing Democratic support.

[wsj.com](https://www.wsj.com)

Notably, President Trump has sent mixed messages regarding Medicaid. On Wednesday, he endorsed a House budget that includes significant cuts to Medicaid, just hours after publicly assuring that the program would remain untouched. This contradiction has led to confusion among lawmakers and concerns about the future of Medicaid funding.

[politico.com](https://www.politico.com)

Senate Democrats have expressed alarm over the proposed cuts, warning that the House Republican budget could include billions of dollars in reductions to Medicaid. They argue that such cuts could strip healthcare from millions of seniors, disabled Americans, and children.

[dcnewsnow.com](https://www.dcnnewsnow.com)

Additionally, Republicans are considering implementing work requirements for Medicaid recipients, a move that could jeopardize healthcare coverage for millions. Critics argue that such requirements could lead to individuals losing coverage due to logistical barriers, without addressing underlying healthcare needs.

[apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com)

February 26, 2025: Medicaid Funding Reductions

On February 25, 2025, the House of Representatives narrowly passed a budget proposal aligned with former President Trump's agenda, which includes substantial cuts to Medicaid. The proposal aims to reduce Medicaid funding by \$800 billion over the next decade, raising concerns about the potential impact on healthcare coverage for low-income individuals. These cuts could significantly affect hospital systems and insurers, leading to stock declines for companies like HCA Healthcare and Molina Healthcare.

Resources:

[theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)

[barrons.com](https://www.barrons.com)

March 5, 2025: Research for AI

- AI in healthcare: <https://www.foreseemed.com/artificial-intelligence-in-healthcare>
 - Main ways they want to use it is by incorporating in within healthcare records systems & for research
 - Use for scanning imaging for missed information & early detection to predicting outcomes based off a patient's EHR
 - Precision medicine, the most common application, predicts effective treatment procedures based on patient-specific data through supervised learning.
- Issues:
 - Data privacy & misuse
 - Can introduce increased complexity for medical providers with additional learning & management
 - Federal safety compliance to ensure AI systems are being used ethically within healthcare settings
- Oracle:
https://www.oracle.com/financial-services/insurance/healthcare-payers/?source=:ad:pas:go:dg:a_nas:l5:RC_GOOG240501P00011C00014:MainAd+:ow:lp:cpo::&gclid=CjwKCAiAtYy9BhBcEiwANWQQL1T5XPyABh7EyFF15Z3YY3zl4RiTcitanFG7LOS-MKDNVn3LpIQZKR0C8VAQAvD_BwE
- Ways they want to include AI:
 - Want to be a voice command assistance to make documentation faster for providers (think siri)
 - Creates patient notes
 - Gives provider run down on updated patient notes
 - Main aim is to lower front office admin burdens while providing more accurate notes from patient to provider
 - Clinical security
 - Continuous monitoring
 - Alert and notification systems
 - Usage monitoring
 - Behavior patterns
 - Regulatory compliance
 - Disaster recovery of EHR
- Population health uses:
 - ○ Managing chronic pain
 - ○ Identifying care gaps

- Connection of care teams and patient
- Understand patient costs and how to improve
- Referral management
 - Personalized referrals for individual patients
 - Exchange information securely
 - Surface referral info
- Health insurance
 - Faster enrollments
 - More accurate billing
 - Revenue management
 - Patient/member onboarding
 - Providing flexible billing options
- AI in rehab therapy:
 - <https://www.pteverywhere.com/media/ai-physical-therapy#:~:text=For%20example%2C%20AI%20can%20detect,a%20significant%20impact%20on%20recovery.>
- Key applications:
 - Data collection & analysis
 - Wearable sensors
 - Apps
 - Digital records
 - Recognize patterns
 - Track patient progress
 - Offer treatment insights
 - Virtual and remote therapy support
 - Remote monitoring
 - Real time patient guidance
 - Instant feedback on form/techniques
 - Reduce in-person visits
 - Automated documentation & reports
 - Instantly logs patient progress
 - Generates reports
 - Flags areas needing attention
 - Predictive analytics
 - Detects potential issues
 - Can develop preemptive treatment plans

- Can track elevated risks of strain & sprains
- Assistance with gait and movement analysis
 - Detect gait abnormalities and give feedback
 - Helps correct issues that lead to injuries
- Overall thoughts on Ai
 - Could be helpful with front desk end responsibilities with HIPAA compliance database coding and management
 - Helps provide real time updates on patient files for providers
 - I think if done right with proper coding, it could help reduce time PTs spend on documentation for each patient
 - Doesn't want to be taking the place of PTs but acts more so as a collected database in which you can in live time compare and contrast different efficiencies of different approaches to patients
 - I like that it would be able to detect care gaps that was it reduces the amount of going back and forth between patient, providers, and insurance
 - Could potentially make the referral and billing aspects a bit simpler overall and might reduce time to achieve these tasks on behalf of the patients
- Questions that arose during research
 - How would the use of AI/Virtual reality be billed? Would they charge the provider or the patient for the use of equipment and how can they ensure that the patient is using equipment properly?
 - How would AI/VR using facilities approach the older generation who struggles with technology when using the equipment?
 - If meant to help patients in rural areas, what happens if they need access to internet/data services but cannot afford it? Would a mifi or hotspot be provided by healthcare providers or insurance?
 - Despite updated coding and algorithms, how would they ensure that the AI documents properly while using voice function especially since siri for example has been around for years and doesn't always properly hear what the speaker is saying and also has increased difficulty with understanding different accents
 - Meta stated they wanted to incorporate motion sensor technologies to incorporate into rehab therapy, but how are they going to ensure sensors are constantly updated and calibrated to capture proper motion and movements?
 - Even though AI would have databases incorporated about medical diagnoses, how would we be sure it doesn't take the whole "webmd" jump approach to patient diagnoses?
 - Though they provide database backups in case of breach, how is their method to EHR's different or better than what is currently being used?

- How would the AI be coded to be empathetic of patients who experience chronic pain and frequently return due to needing constant care and also how would that affect the preemptive treatment plans?
- Despite having form/technique correction, how would AI detect if a patient is struggling with a specific exercise vs bad form, and how would they make pivots based off of patient vs database coding stand point?
- How would employers anticipate to set aside time for required continued learning by incorporating AI/VR within their practice and would that responsibility fall under the office's responsibility or would it be the 3rd party (AI/VR supplier) responsibility to train?
- How would AI know if and when patient intervention needs to happen?
- How will they ensure personalized and unbiased treatment plans and would they also be coded to have awareness of different religious backgrounds that may pose potential issues when it comes to treatment plans?
- How can we ensure AI chatbots are giving patients full responses to questions that they may ask instead of going around in a circle and not fully answering or addressing issues patients may bring up? (like calling the bank and trying to get to a specific person but it instead reroutes you to a general options menu and won't let you speak to an actual person)
- What happens if the network crashes during a work day? Would we still be able to access records or would it bring the office to a standstill?
- How would the pivot remote care for those using VR (meta) if they are prone to motion sickness and cannot complete therapy virtually?
- How do we know if it's better and more effective using AI/VR versus the methods that are currently in place and being implemented now?

Updated research on 3/5/23:

- <https://www.simplepractice.com/blog/therapists-use-ai-chatgpt-admin-work/>
- Article about doctors and mental health practitioners who use AI for admin work
 - Family doctor in Tennessee uses AI to help create medical notes for treatment plans and billing. Originally these would take 2 hours to complete on his own, but with AI and little editing he managed to cut time down to 20 minutes worth of work
 - Clinical psychologists by using AI to create automating responses to frequent client questions, appointment scheduling and appointment reminders
 - App called Zapier which can connect to google calendar and other apps
 - A licensed professional counselor uses it for writing assistance for case notes, treatment plan templates, & clinical documentation.
 - Leaves out PHI and then asks ChatGPT to format into DAP or SOAP note format and then goes back to add additional and required information.
 - These serve as blank templates that employees can copy, paste, and edit and then send
 - Once ChatGPT does the formatting for case notes, counselor then goes back to review and edit notes and then finalizes task

- Doctor also trained ChatGPT over time by giving feedback about exactly how they wanted the notes to look and by doing so template was able to change to desired design
- Typical AI usage in clinic settings:
 - Create automated email marketing campaigns
 - Generating personalized emails for clients
 - Improving marketing efforts
 - Write blogs, newsletters, website content, social media ads, etc.
 - Create business plans and marketing strategies
 - Automation of Excel sheets for to input and analyze data
 - Generate excel codes that pulls clients names from folders of your choosing
 - Sending reminder emails and appointment confirmations
 - Appointment rescheduling emails
 - Automate intake process by sending out intake forms to fill out and submit online
- Concerns of AI in healthcare:
 - Ethical and legal implications
 - Data privacy issues
 - Client privacy and confidentiality issues
 - Accuracy issues
 - Potential biases of language programming models
 - Infrastructure requirements (cloud computing)
 - Cost considerations
- <https://www.usa.edu/blog/artificial-intelligence-in-physical-therapy-cool-applications-fascinating-implications/>
- AI PT apps and what they do
 - SWORD Health: <https://swordhealth.com/>
 - Startup that calls itself a “system for home-based physical rehabilitation (SWORD)”
 - System uses wireless motion tracker that patients can attach to their bodies and a digital therapist (AI) gives feedback in real time
ie. raise leg higher
 - SWORD also has web-based platform where remote clinical teams can use app to view analyses of patient data and use information to monitor and adjust rehab
- Kaia Health: <https://kaiahealth.com/>
 - Motion coach available on iOS and Android using front-facing camera that tracks motion points on the body
 - Guides patients through exercises & uses AI algorithm that evaluates and gives feedback to patient needs
 - Also includes chat interface to consult with PT about exercises

- Physitrack: <https://www.physitrack.com/>
- Tracks patient performance, adherence, & outcomes on iPhones and iPads
- Features 3D anatomical imagery provided from Primal Pictures
- Robotics: Bionik Labs: <https://bioniklabs.com/>
- Creates mechanical rehab devices that work with hands, wrists, & arms that help guide patients to perform the movement in the correct way by providing assistance as needed
- System uses AI to gather information to allow it to get “smarter” and learn the patient’s capabilities. Robot can track the smallest amount of progress and provide information about incremental progress as patient gains strength and abilities to encourage patient with more confidence in skills
- Important note: the robots help patients fine-tune each movement, while therapists help patients translate these improvements into greater functions.
- StrataPT: https://www.stratapt.com/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwm7q-BhDRARIsACD6-fUiTLvuAm2kHhXkpnzNx-6DUkB-yFCLYWPKdbDqZsiD3gEK6jU0vuQaAmeEALw_wcB
- Billing aware AI practice management
- Combines EMR & billing into one automated system to increase revenue for PT, OT, & speech clinics
 - Platform is aware of your personal payer rules & identifies errors before submissions (customizable templates)
 - Uses data on all aspects of your clinic (scheduling, referrals, billing, reimbursement, productivity, & collections by payer)
 - Provides detailed snapshots that include date of service, which CPT codes were billed, length of visit, amount paid by insurance breakdown for patients
- PT Pal Pro: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/pt-pal-pro/id1117083368>
 - Patient engagement platform that works with both patients and providers.
 - Platform is supposed to store treatment plans, advise on therapies, and sends reminders for appointments through the app.
 - Platform integrates a practice’s EHR for data transfer
 - Detailed patient analytics
 - Monitors patient’s adherence to exercise as well of how they felt (emotionally/pain) during exercises
 - Is free on app store for apple devices
 - App isn’t meant to replace PT but to be used as a helpful tool for HEPs and isn’t meant to be used as a substitute for healthcare providers

March 11, 2025: Medicaid IDEA DOE Updates

Medicaid Funding and Proposed Cuts

The current administration has proposed significant federal spending reductions, potentially impacting Medicaid. In Connecticut, officials are concerned about the effects on 1.2 million residents relying on Medicaid. Proposed national cuts of up to \$880 billion over the next decade could lead to a \$1.3 billion loss in federal funds for Connecticut, affecting services like long-term care facilities.

[CT Insider](#)

In Houston, potential federal funding cuts could impact the workforce, social services, and community welfare. A possible \$600 million loss for Harris County might affect flood control, public health, and safety. Programs like the \$249.7 million Solar For All have already seen halted spending. Cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid could harm nearly 1 million residents, especially seniors and low-income children.

[houstonchronicle.com](#)

Administrative Actions and Funding Freezes

A federal judge recently issued a temporary freeze on the administration's directive to pause federal funding. This pause was intended to allow agencies, including the Department of Education, to review financial assistance programs for alignment with new executive orders. While Title I, IDEA, and Head Start funding appeared unaffected, the freeze caused uncertainty among educators and policymakers.

[k12dive.com](#)

Changes Affecting the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

The administration plans to reverse several flexibilities introduced during the previous administration concerning the ACA. Proposed measures include ending monthly enrollment opportunities for low-income individuals, shortening the annual open enrollment period by a month, and requiring marketplace enrollees to settle overdue premiums before receiving new coverage. Additionally, mandatory coverage of gender-affirming care as an essential health benefit is set to end in 2026.

[Axios](#)

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Medicaid Billing

The Department of Education withdrew a proposal intended to streamline how schools bill Medicaid for services provided to students under IDEA. The proposal aimed to simplify the process by removing the requirement for schools to obtain parental consent before billing Medicaid. However, concerns from

parents' rights and disability rights organizations about potential unintended consequences led to the proposal's withdrawal.

[edweek.org](https://www.edweek.org)

March 19, 2025: Medicaid Medicare Cuts Impact

Recent legislative developments have raised concerns regarding significant cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, which could profoundly impact healthcare services, particularly for children and those reliant on pediatric physical therapy.

Overview of the Budget Cuts

The House of Representatives recently passed a budget resolution aiming to reduce federal spending by \$2 trillion. A substantial portion of these cuts—approximately \$880 billion—targets Medicaid over the next decade. These reductions are intended to fund tax cuts and increase allocations for defense and border security.

[American Hospital Association](#)

Impact on Medicaid and Children's Healthcare

Medicaid serves as a crucial safety net, providing health coverage to one in five Americans, including 37 million children. The proposed \$880 billion cut represents the largest in U.S. history and could lead to:

- **Reduced Healthcare Access:** Millions may lose coverage, limiting access to essential services.
[UnidosUS](#)
- **Strained Pediatric Services:** Children's hospitals and clinics might face financial challenges, affecting services like pediatric physical therapy.
[Home](#)
- **School-Based Health Services:** Funding for services such as physical therapy, mental health counseling, and care for students with disabilities could be jeopardized.
[American Federation of Teachers](#)

Impact on Medicare and Healthcare Providers

The budget proposal also includes a 2.83% cut to Medicare physician reimbursements, effective January 1. This marks the fifth consecutive year of such reductions, potentially leading to:

- **Financial Strain on Providers:** Medical practices may struggle to maintain operations, affecting patient care accessibility.
[American Medical Association](#)

- **Legislative Response:** The Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act (HR 879) has been introduced to counteract these cuts by providing a temporary payment increase to physicians.

[San Antonio Express-News](#)

Implementation Timeline

The budget resolution serves as a framework, with specific spending cuts to be detailed in subsequent legislation. The timeline for implementing these cuts depends on the legislative process, including committee deliberations and potential reconciliation procedures. If enacted, the cuts could take effect in the upcoming fiscal year, but exact timelines remain uncertain.

[Grantmakers In Health](#)

Potential Impact on HWMN Inc and MTM

For organizations like HWMN Inc and MTM, which specialize in pediatric physical therapy, the proposed budget cuts could have several implications:

- **Funding Reductions:** Decreased Medicaid funding may lead to lower reimbursement rates for services, affecting financial sustainability.
- **Increased Demand:** As access to services diminishes elsewhere, more patients may seek care from specialized providers, potentially overwhelming existing resources.
- **Operational Challenges:** Financial strains could necessitate adjustments in staffing, services offered, or operational hours to remain viable.

Conclusion

The proposed budget cuts to Medicaid and Medicare present significant challenges to healthcare providers and beneficiaries, particularly children requiring specialized services like pediatric physical therapy. Organizations should monitor legislative developments closely and engage in advocacy efforts to mitigate potential adverse effects on their operations and the communities they serve.

March 20, 2025: Executive Order to Dismantle the Department of Education

Recent developments indicate significant shifts in federal education policy that could impact healthcare services for children, particularly those relying on school-based programs.

Executive Order to Dismantle the Department of Education

On March 19, 2025, President Donald Trump signed an executive order to dismantle the Department of Education (DOE), aiming to transfer educational authority back to the states. This move aligns with his campaign promise to reduce federal oversight in education. However, the order faces legal challenges from a coalition of Democratic state attorneys general and the NAACP, who argue it is unconstitutional and could harm children dependent on federal educational support, especially in underserved communities. For the order to be fully enacted, congressional approval is required, and significant legislative support is uncertain.

[Reuters](#)

Potential Impact on School-Based Healthcare Services

The DOE oversees substantial federal educational support, including programs that facilitate healthcare services within schools. Its closure could disrupt aid to numerous K-12 schools and higher education institutions, affecting services such as:

- **Special Education Services:** Federal laws like the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ensure that students with disabilities receive appropriate services. The dismantling of the DOE could compromise the enforcement of these protections, leading to reduced access to necessary healthcare services within educational settings.

[Teen Vogue](#)

Concerns from Educational and Healthcare Advocates

Advocates express concerns that dismantling the DOE could:

- **Harm Vulnerable Students:** Children with disabilities and those from low-income families may lose access to essential services, exacerbating educational and health disparities.

[Teen Vogue](#)

- **Undermine Federal Protections:** The DOE enforces civil rights protections and addresses educational injustices. Its absence could lead to increased discrimination and inequality in education.

[Teen Vogue](#)

Implementation Timeline

The executive order directs Education Secretary Linda McMahon to manage the department's closure and transfer education authority back to the states while maintaining essential services. However, the order's implementation faces challenges, as it requires significant legislative support, and Senate Democrats have indicated they will not back the proposal.

[Reuters](#)

March 21, 2025: Recent Executive Actions and Their Implications

Recent executive orders from President Donald Trump have introduced significant changes affecting various sectors, including education, healthcare, and nonprofit organizations. Below is an overview of these developments and their potential impacts.

1. Executive Order to Dismantle the Department of Education

On March 20, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order directing the dismantling of the Department of Education (ED), aiming to transfer educational authority back to states and local communities. While the order initiates the process, complete dissolution of the ED requires Congressional approval, which remains uncertain due to bipartisan opposition.

[Business Insider](#)

Potential Impacts:

- **Special Education Services:** The closure of the ED could disrupt the enforcement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), potentially compromising services for students with disabilities.
[Disability Scoop](#)
- **Federal Funding for Low-Income Schools:** The dismantling may affect programs like Title I funding, which supports schools with high percentages of low-income students, thereby widening educational disparities.
[Business Insider](#)

2. Federal Funding Freeze

In January 2025, an executive order was issued to halt the distribution of federal grants and loans, aiming to ensure compliance with new administrative policies. This freeze has raised concerns across various sectors:

Potential Impacts:

- **Healthcare Services:** The funding freeze threatens programs like Medicaid, potentially disrupting healthcare services for millions, including children and individuals with disabilities.
[Fortune](#)
- **Nonprofit Organizations:** Nonprofits reliant on federal grants may face operational challenges, hindering their ability to deliver critical community services.
[The Chronicle of Philanthropy](#)
- **Education Funding:** The freeze could affect student loans and financial aid programs, increasing uncertainty for students and educational institutions.
[CBS News](#)

3. Impact on Nonprofit Organizations

Executive orders targeting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives have significant implications for nonprofits:

Potential Impacts:

- **Loss of Federal Funding:** Nonprofits engaged in DEI-focused programs risk losing federal support, affecting their capacity to serve marginalized communities.
[iCarol](#)
- **Operational Challenges:** Organizations may need to revise their programs and training to align with new regulations, potentially straining resources and limiting effectiveness.
[CharityWatch](#)

4. Impact on Families and Children

The cumulative effect of these executive actions poses risks to families and children:

- **Reduced Access to Services:** Cuts in federal funding for education and healthcare could limit access to essential services, disproportionately affecting low-income families.
[NPR](#)
- **Educational Disruptions:** The dismantling of the ED may lead to inconsistencies in educational standards and resources across states, impacting the quality of education for children nationwide.
[Business Insider](#)

April 8, 2025: DOE Cuts Hawaii Impact

Recent federal policy changes and proposed budget cuts have raised significant concerns regarding their potential impact on Hawaii's public education system, particularly for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), school-based physical therapists (PTs), and outpatient clinics like Made To Move Pediatric Physical Therapy (MTM). Here's an overview of the current situation:

Federal Actions on DEI Policies and Education Funding

The Trump administration has issued directives requiring public schools to eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs or risk losing federal funding. Specifically, the U.S. Department of Education has mandated that state education officials confirm within ten days whether their schools comply with the administration's anti-DEI policies. Noncompliance could result in the withholding of Title I funds, which support schools with high numbers of low-income students. The administration contends that certain DEI initiatives may violate federal anti-discrimination laws, although specific definitions of non-compliant programs have not been clearly provided.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-04-03/trump-administration-threatens-us-public-school-funding-over-dei>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/apr/03/trump-universities-dei-funding>

Potential Impact on Hawaii's Education System

Hawaii's public schools rely significantly on federal funding for various programs, including special education services essential for students with IEPs. The state's Department of Education has expressed serious concerns about the potential loss of federal support, emphasizing that such cuts could adversely affect the provision of equitable education services across the state. [Hawaii Tribune-Herald](#)

While specific statements from Hawaii's governor regarding these federal directives are not available in the provided sources, state education officials have highlighted the critical role of federal funds in supporting low-income students and those with disabilities. The potential reduction or elimination of these funds could lead to decreased resources for special education services, impacting students with IEPs and the professionals who support them, including school-based PTs. [Spectrum News](#)

Medicaid and Medicare Budget Considerations

In addition to education funding concerns, there are ongoing discussions at the federal level about significant budget cuts to Medicaid and Medicare. The House of Representatives has adopted a budget proposal that includes up to \$2 trillion in spending cuts, with \$880 billion potentially affecting Medicaid and other key healthcare programs. These proposed cuts have raised alarms among healthcare providers, as they could lead to reduced coverage for vulnerable populations and decreased reimbursement rates for services.

<https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/putting-880-billion-in-potential-federal-medicaid-cuts-in-context-of-state-budgets-and-coverage>

For outpatient clinics like MTM, which may serve a substantial number of patients covered by Medicaid, such cuts could result in financial challenges. Reduced reimbursement rates might affect the clinic's ability to provide services at current levels, potentially impacting access to pediatric physical therapy for children in need. [KFF](#)

As of April 9, 2025 only the Senate has passed a budget cut from Medicaid, the house of representatives have not passed its version of the budget resolution. Until both chambers pass the same version of the budget resolution and move into the reconciliation process no official cuts to Medicare or Medicaid can happen. Until there is approval on both sides there is no timeframe for when this budget resolution will be passed. Right now the House of Representatives hasn't passed its version of the budget resolution due to the internal disagreement among the house of Republicans particularly over the size and scope of the cuts and accompanying tax changes.

April 27, 2025: Medicaid and Medicare Cuts

As of April 2025, significant federal policy shifts are poised to impact children with disabilities, their families, and pediatric therapy providers in Hawaii. These developments center around proposed Medicaid and Medicare cuts, federal funding freezes, and changes to school-based therapy funding. Below is a comprehensive overview of these issues, their implications, and resources for further information.

Medicaid and Medicare Cuts

Recent federal budget proposals aim to extend provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts & Jobs Act, potentially adding \$5.8 trillion to the national debt over the next decade. To offset these costs, lawmakers are considering \$2 trillion in spending cuts, primarily targeting Medicaid and green energy tax credits. While measures like work requirements and spending caps are proposed to achieve savings without affecting current benefits, there is concern about the potential impact on vulnerable populations. [Reuters](#)

In Hawaii, approximately 20% of the population relies on Medicaid. Proposed cuts could lead to:

- Loss of health coverage for around 35,000 children.
- Potential elimination of nursing home care for more than one in six seniors.
- Overall, over 140,000 residents might lose their health insurance. [Teen Vogue](#)

These reductions could directly affect access to outpatient pediatric physical therapy and other essential services.

Judge orders federal agencies to release billions of dollars from two Biden-era initiatives

The nonprofits said that an executive order issued by Trump resulted in projects funded by these two laws being put on hold. As a result, funding from many federal agencies has been frozen for everything from urban forestry projects to weatherization programs to lead pipe remediation and has resulted in “serious and irreversible harm” to many groups.

“This funding freeze has already caused serious harm in communities, as nonprofits that provide critical services to our country’s most vulnerable have been forced to scale back operations, cancel projects, and consider laying off staff,” Yentel said. “This injunction offers much-needed relief and a path forward.”

[Judge orders Trump administration to release billions of dollars from Biden-era initiatives | AP News](#)

Potential Impacts of Federal Medicaid Cuts

Proposed federal budget cuts to Medicaid could have significant repercussions for school-based health services in Hawai‘i. Nationwide, Medicaid is a vital source of funding for K–12 schools, supporting over \$7.5 billion in school-based health services annually .

<https://tcf.org/content/commentary/beyond-health-potential-impact-on-k-12-students-of-880-billion-in-medicaid-cuts>

<https://www.aasa.org/resources/resource/how-medicaid-cuts-will-harm-students-schools>

<https://tcf.org/content/commentary/beyond-health-potential-impact-on-k-12-students-of-880-billion-in-medicaid-cuts>

In Hawai‘i, reductions in Medicaid funding could strain resources, potentially affecting the quality and availability of therapies for students with disabilities. Families and educators express concerns that such cuts could lead to fewer services and learning opportunities for special education students .[Honolulu Civil Beat](#)

Legislative and Community Responses

In response to these concerns, Hawai‘i's state legislature is considering measures to mitigate the impact of federal funding uncertainties. For instance, SB933 proposes one-time, non-recurring grants to nonprofits providing essential services threatened by federal funding freezes .

Additionally, community organizations like AlohaCare have launched campaigns to collect stories highlighting Medicaid's impact, aiming to inform policymakers and advocate for the preservation of essential services .[Hawaii Public Radio](#)

May 8, 2025: Medicaid Cuts 2025 Updates

As of May 2025, significant federal Medicaid cuts and funding reductions under the new administration are poised to impact Hawaii, including organizations like Made to Move LLC and the Hawaii Wellness Mobility Network.

Federal Medicaid Cuts and Hawaii's Response

The Trump administration's proposed \$880 billion reduction in Medicaid funding over the next decade has raised concerns in Hawaii, where Medicaid (Med-QUEST) covers approximately 420,000 residents. A Hawaii Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR 144) urges the governor to prepare for potential federal Medicaid cuts, which could lead to substantial enrollment losses and increased state spending if Hawaii maintains Medicaid expansion. Alternatively, eliminating expansion could result in over 156,000 residents losing coverage.

[Democrats make long-shot effort to stop Trump cuts to Medicaid and Snap | House of Representatives | The Guardian](#)

Hawaii's House Concurrent Resolution 206 condemns these federal budget cuts, highlighting potential job losses, reduced healthcare access, and increased food insecurity. The resolution calls for a reconsideration of these decisions and urges the governor to explore measures to mitigate adverse effects. [LegiScan](#)

Impact on Mobility and Wellness Providers

Organizations like Made to Move LLC and the Hawaii Wellness Mobility Network, which provide essential mobility and wellness services, are at risk due to funding uncertainties. The freeze on Title X funding threatens reproductive healthcare access, and the pause in federal grants has disrupted reimbursements for programs like Medicaid and Head Start. Although some legal challenges have temporarily blocked certain funding cuts, the overall environment remains unstable.

[Title X Freeze Threatens Reproductive Health Care Access | TIME](#)

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2025/03/05/breaking-news/hawaii-ag-helps-secure-national-injunction-on-nih-funding-cuts>

Additionally, the discontinuation of a key Medicaid financing mechanism by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) limits states' ability to fund innovative health initiatives, potentially affecting programs that support mobility and wellness services. [Axios](#)

Legal Actions and State Advocacy

Hawaii's Attorney General played a pivotal role in securing a nationwide injunction against NIH funding cuts, protecting critical medical and public health research in the state. However, the broader federal funding landscape remains volatile, with ongoing legal challenges and policy shifts that may continue to affect Hawaii's health services. [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#)

May 30, 2025: Legislative Update: “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (OBBBA)

On May 22, the House narrowly passed the OBBBA (H.R. 1) with a 215–214–1 vote. This sweeping bill encompasses significant changes to Medicaid and Medicare:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Big_Beautiful_Bill_Act
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/05/23/medicaid-transgender-transition-care-bill>
- <https://www.kiplinger.com/retirement/medicare/changes-to-medicare-in-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-act>
- <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-increase-oversight-medicaid-use-immigrant-healthcare-2025-05-27>

Medicaid Changes

- **Work Requirements:** Imposes work requirements for Medicaid recipients aged 19–64, starting at the end of 2026. Critics argue this could lead to millions losing coverage, especially caregivers, students, and those with disabilities
 - <https://www.barrons.com/articles/trump-bill-social-security-tax-e70d1658>
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Big_Beautiful_Bill_Act
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/05/30/medicaid-mike-johnson-work-requirement>
- **Coverage Restrictions:** Eliminates Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming care for all ages starting in 2027.
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/05/23/medicaid-transgender-transition-care-bill>
- **Immigration Oversight:** Enhances oversight to prevent states from using Medicaid funds for undocumented immigrants
 - <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-increase-oversight-medicaid-use-immigrant-healthcare-2025-05-27>
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Big_Beautiful_Bill_Act
- **Funding Cuts:** Proposes over \$700 billion in Medicaid funding cuts over the next decade, potentially leading to hospital closures, especially in rural areas

- <https://www.investopedia.com/medicaid-cuts-could-lead-to-hospital-closures-advocates-warn-11740798>
- <https://www.barrons.com/articles/trump-bill-social-security-tax-e70d1658>

Medicare Changes

- **Funding Reduction:** Mandates a 4% cut in Medicare funding, totaling \$500 billion over eight years starting in 2026
 - <https://www.kiplinger.com/retirement/medicare/changes-to-medicare-in-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-act>
- **Eligibility Restrictions:** Limits Medicare eligibility to U.S. citizens and qualifying lawful residents.
 - <https://www.kiplinger.com/retirement/medicare/changes-to-medicare-in-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-act>
- **Health Savings Accounts (HSAs):** Allows employed individuals enrolled in Medicare Part A and a high-deductible health plan to contribute to HSAs, with increased contribution limits for lower-income individuals and families.
 - <https://www.kiplinger.com/retirement/medicare/changes-to-medicare-in-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-act>
- **Rural Hospital Support:** Expands eligibility for the Rural Emergency Hospital designation, enabling closed rural hospitals operating between 2014 and 2020 to reopen under this classification.
 - <https://www.kiplinger.com/retirement/medicare/changes-to-medicare-in-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-act>
- **Fraud Prevention:** Allocates \$25 million to employ artificial intelligence to detect and recover improper Medicare payments
 - <https://www.kiplinger.com/retirement/medicare/changes-to-medicare-in-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-act>

Federal Healthcare Updates

HHS Reorganization

In March 2025, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a reorganization plan, including merging five agencies into a new Administration for a Healthy America and reducing the workforce by approximately 20,000 employees. This plan has faced criticism and was enjoined by a District Court in May

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_U.S._Department_of_Health_and_Human_Services_reorganization

Autism Research Initiative

HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced a \$50 million initiative to study autism's root causes and related chronic conditions. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will partner to create a data platform linking Medicaid and Medicare information for autism research, with initial findings expected by September 2025

<https://www.khi.org/articles/what-were-watching-may-9-2025>

<https://www.healthadvances.com/insights/blog/trump-administration-healthcare-news-may-9-2025>

Action Resources for Families

- **Healthcare Advocacy:** Families can reach out to their representatives to express concerns about the OBBBA and its potential impact on healthcare coverage.
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Big_Beautiful_Bill_Act
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/05/23/medicaid-transgender-transition-care-bill>
 - **State Medicaid Offices:** Stay informed about state-specific Medicaid changes and resources by contacting local Medicaid offices.
 - **Community Health Centers:** Utilize services offered by community health centers, which often provide care on a sliding fee scale based on income.
 - **Nonprofit Organizations:** Seek assistance from nonprofits focused on healthcare access and patient advocacy for support and information.
-

TAKE ACTION RESOURCES (Updated May 30, 2025)

1. Contact Your Elected Officials

- **Tell Congress how this bill impacts you** — especially if you rely on Medicaid, Medicare, or serve families who do.

- Use tools like:
 - <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>
 - <https://actionnetwork.org/>

2. Family & Provider Toolkits

- **Protecting Medicaid** toolkit from Families USA: [Defending Medicaid - Families USA](#)
- **AAP Advocacy Toolkit** (especially for those working with keiki): <https://www.aap.org/en/advocacy>

3. Join Advocacy Webinars or Town Halls

- Groups like the **National Health Law Program (NHeLP)** and **Community Catalyst** host virtual events and explain policy in plain language.
- Keep tabs on:
 - <https://www.healthlaw.org>
 - <https://communitycatalyst.org>

4. Stay Informed – Easy-to-Read News Sources

- **KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation)**: <https://www.kff.org> – tracks all Medicaid & Medicare changes.
- **Medicaid.gov Newsroom**: [Federal Policy Guidance | Medicaid](#)
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**: <https://cbpp.org> – explains federal cuts in real people terms.

5. Partner with Local Advocacy Groups

- In Hawai'i: Consider working with:
 - **Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN)**: <https://www.hawaii-can.org>
 - **Hawaii Appleseed**: <https://hiappleseed.org>

6. Educate Families Directly

- Host a short info session at your clinic or church.
- Create flyers or infographics explaining:
 - What work requirements mean
 - When cuts might take effect

- Where to go for help or support

June 06, 2025: Medicaid & Medicare Legislative Moves

- **GOP exploring Medicare cuts:** Republicans in the Senate—backed by signals from former President Trump—are now exploring savings in Medicare, including changes to Medicare Advantage. Some moderate Republicans (like Senator Hawley) are pushing back, calling cuts a “terrible idea”
<https://www.axios.com/2025/06/05/republicans-medicare-medicare-trump-budget>
<https://www.axios.com/2025/06/05/senate-republicans-medicare-trump-budget>
- **Medicaid work requirements progressing:** Federal proposals would require Medicaid recipients to complete at least 80 hours/month of work, volunteering, or education—starting December 2026—potentially affecting up to 10 million Americans
<https://www.verywellhealth.com/proposed-medicare-work-requirements-lost-coverage-11747483>
<https://www.thedailybeast.com/dr-oz-says-people-will-receive-medicare-if-they-can-prove-that-they-matter>
[\(14\) Weekly Legislative Update May 26-June 1, 2025 | LinkedIn](#)
- **Coverage loss forecasts rise:** CBO estimates suggest up to 10.9 million people could become uninsured if the reconciliation bill’s Medicaid and ACA changes are enacted
[\(14\) Weekly Legislative Update May 26-June 1, 2025 | LinkedIn](#)

IDEA & Special Education Updates

- **Court decision on IDEA/ADA oversight:** On May 21, the Sixth Circuit ruled that a state must supervise schools under ADA concerning IDEA compliance—*Y.A. v. Hamtramck Public Schools* highlights the growing recognition of needs like dyslexia under IDEA
https://perryzirkel.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/zirkel_legal_update_june-2025.pdf
- **IDEA Part C grant process underway:** State agencies must submit applications by May 21, 2025. Awards are planned for July 1, indicating a mid-summer funding boost for early intervention services
<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/Grants-Part-C-FFY2025-Procedures-Memo.pdf>
- **IDEA Full Funding Act:** A House bill (introduced March 25), still in discussion, would finally allocate full federal funding for IDEA. No major movement this week, but still relevant
https://huffman.house.gov/imo/media/doc/idea_full_funding_act_2025.pdf

June 25, 2025: Big Picture on Medicaid Cuts

- **Massive federal reductions looming:** A reconciliation bill passed the House (May 22, 2025) proposes nearly **\$860–880 billion** in cuts to Medicaid and CHIP over 10 years
 - <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/05/27/medicaid-and-chip-cuts-in-the-house-passed-reconciliation-bill-explained/>
 - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/house-passes-reconciliation-bill-medicare-healthcare/748697/>
- **Senate version may go further:** Includes deeper cuts via capped provider taxes and tougher enrollment rules. Could hit hospitals, rural and pediatric care hard
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/06/18/medicaid-cuts-hospital-funding-senate-republicans/>
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/23/republican-senate-trump-bill-medicare-cuts>
 - <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/05/27/medicaid-and-chip-cuts-in-the-house-passed-reconciliation-bill-explained/>
- **Risk of uninsurance:** Over **16 million** Americans could lose Medicaid; in PA alone, **300,000+** may lose coverage, many of them children and seniors .
- **Impending vote:** Senate aims for action before **July 4, 2025**
 - <https://www.axios.com/local/pittsburgh/2025/06/25/thousands-could-lose-insurance-under-medicare-cuts>
 - <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/06/24/dr-oz-senate-medicare-cuts-00421423>
 - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/house-passes-reconciliation-bill-medicare-healthcare/748697/>
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/06/18/medicaid-cuts-hospital-funding-senate-republicans/>
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/23/republican-senate-trump-bill-medicare-cuts>

Impact on Kids, Families & Pediatric Therapy

- **IDEA Part C early intervention** (birth–age 3): Serves ~460,000+ infants/toddlers. Medicaid funds ~**\$683 million** annually. Cuts threaten service quality and provider viability
 - <https://www.the74million.org/zero2eight/how-medicare-cuts-could-impact-early-intervention-for-young-children/>

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/06/18/medicaid-cuts-hospital-funding-senate-republicans/>
- <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/commentary/article/medicaid-cuts-harm-south-texas-health-care-20383674.php>
- <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2025-05-22-house-passes-reconciliation-bill-significant-impacts-medicare-health-insurance-marketplaces>
- <https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/new-york-bill-state-gender-affirming-care-program-20376349.php>
- **Education system support:** Medicaid reimburses ~\$7.5 billion/year to schools for health services (physical/mental therapy). Cuts would disrupt prep for learning & in-school support
 - <https://edtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Budget-Recon-Medicaid-V3.pdf>
- **Behavioral health & ABA therapy:** Medicaid-insured kids show ~5% autism diagnosis vs. 2% privately insured. Cuts or caps would strain ABA providers and access for many families
 - <https://bhbusiness.com/2025/03/06/medicaid-cuts-could-be-disastrous-for-sud-smi-autism-service-industries>
- **IDEA/IEP safeguards at risk:** Medicaid funding supports development of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Budget cuts and Dept of Ed staffing reductions weaken enforcement
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Individuals_with_Disabilities_Education_Act

Market Context & Service Provider Challenges

- **Outpatient clinics & MTM (like MTMK):** Expect increased paperwork, eligibility verifications, and revenue shortfalls from Medicaid-funded services.
- **Hospitals & outpatient units:** Especially rural facilities, may face cutbacks and staffing downsizing [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com).
- **Schools & therapists:** Reduced Medicaid reimbursements could force schools/clinics to drop services or shift costs to families.

July 02, 2025: Medicaid Medicare Bill Update

1. Legislative Status & Timeline

- House passed OBBBA (H.R. 1) on May 22, 2025
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Big_Beautiful_Bill_Act

- <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/06/26/one-big-beautiful-bill-act-winners-and-losers-in-the-medicare-provisions>
- <https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/how-will-the-2025-budget-reconciliation-affect-the-aca-medicare-and-the-uninsured-rate>
- <https://www.lathropgpm.com/insights/where-to-medicare-house-legislation-makes-significant-changes-senate-future-is-uncertain/>
- <https://familyvoices.org/budget-reconciliation-and-medicare-impacts-senate-update-june-2025>
- <https://www.kiplinger.com/retirement/medicare/changes-to-medicare-in-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-act?>
- <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/senate-gop-makes-last-minute-health-care-changes-budget-bill>
- <https://www.kff.org/tracking-the-medicare-provisions-in-the-2025-budget-bill>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/06/28/trump-big-bill-senate>
- <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/06/29/megabill-byrd-alaska-megabill-parliamentarian-00431730>
- <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/editorials/article/budget-bill-trump-medicare-rural-hospitals-20402463.php>
- **Senate added changes** via the Finance Committee text released **June 16**, then narrowly passed its version on **July 1** by a 51-50 vote
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2025/jul/01/donald-trump-vote-a-rama-big-beautiful-bill-republicans-democrats-live-us-politics-news-latest-updates>
 - <https://fello.org/blog/budget-reconciliation-update-key-medicare-provisions-to-watch/>
 - <https://sachspolicy.com/2025/06/senate-finance-committee-deepens-medicare-cuts-in-one-big-beautiful-bill-june-16-2025/>
 - <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/06/28/congress/salt-medicare-provider-taxes-00430903>
- Now it's headed back to the **House** (due to Senate amendments) for reconciliation, aiming for a final passage by **July 4** per White House timeline
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/06/28/trump-big-bill-senate>
- **Senate Parliamentary Ruling**
 - Some Medicare-targeted provisions—like cutting provider tax in Alaska/Hawaii and immigrant coverage caps—were rejected under Byrd Rule, requiring Senate revision
 - <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/06/29/megabill-byrd-alaska-megabill-parliamentarian-00431730>
 - <https://www.thedailybeast.com/trump-faces-maga-revolt-as-big-beautiful-bill-blows-up-over-medicare/>
 - [Key Medicare provision in Trump tax bill found to violate Senate rules | AP News](https://www.apnews.com/story/Key-Medicare-provision-in-Trump-tax-bill-found-to-violate-Senate-rules/2025/06/29)
 - <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/06/26/one-big-beautiful-bill-act-winners-and-losers-in-the-medicare-provisions>
 - <https://www.kff.org/tracking-the-medicare-provisions-in-the-2025-budget-bill/>

- <https://familyvoices.org/budget-reconciliation-and-medicaid-impacts-senate-update-june-2025/>
- <https://www.lathropgpm.com/insights/where-to-medicaid-house-legislation-makes-significant-changes-senate-future-is-uncertain/>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/07/01/trump-big-beautiful-bill-health-care-medicaid-impacts/>
- <https://www.barrons.com/articles/trump-bill-healthcare-medicaid-changes-542cc149>
- <https://www.vox.com/health-care/418431/big-beautiful-bill-lose-medicaid-trump?>

2. Key Medicaid Provisions

Work & Eligibility Requirements

- Introduces strict work/community-service mandates (e.g., 80 hours/month) for nondisabled adults under 65
 - <https://www.barrons.com/articles/trump-bill-healthcare-medicaid-changes-542cc149>
 - [The GOP's big bill would bring changes to Medicaid for millions | AP News](#)
- Medicaid redetermination now required every six months
- New verification checks on addresses/data, elimination of some immigrant verification grace periods
 - <https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/how-will-the-2025-budget-reconciliation-affect-the-aca-medicaid-and-the-uninsured-rate/>
 - <https://www.kff.org/tracking-the-medicaid-provisions-in-the-2025-budget-bill/>
 - <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/06/28/congress/salt-medicaid-provider-taxes-00430903>

Cost-Sharing & Fees

- Cost-sharing capped at **\$35 per visit** for expansion adults with incomes above the poverty line
 - <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/06/26/one-big-beautiful-bill-act-winners-and-losers-in-the-medicaid-provisions/>
 - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicaid?>
 - <https://www.factcheck.org/2025/06/assessing-medicaid-coverage-losses-under-house-reconciliation-bill/>
 - <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/editorials/article/budget-bill-trump-medicaid-rural-hospitals-20402463.php>
 - <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/06/28/congress/salt-medicaid-provider-taxes-00430903>

Provider Tax Reduction

- Senate version **capped provider taxes** in expansion states at **3.5%** by 2031 (down from House's total freeze)
 - <https://sachspolicy.com/2025/06/senate-finance-committee-deepens-medicaid-cuts-in-one-big-beautiful-bill-june-16-2025>
 - <https://fello.org/blog/budget-reconciliation-update-key-medicaid-provisions-to-watch/>
 - <https://arstechnica.com/health/2025/06/nearly-12-million-people-would-lose-health-insurance-under-senate-gop-bill>
 - <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/06/26/one-big-beautiful-bill-act-winners-and-losers-in-the-medicaid-provisions/>
 - <https://familyvoices.org/budget-reconciliation-and-medicaid-impacts-senate-update-june-2025/>
 - <https://www.kiplinger.com/retirement/medicare/changes-to-medicare-in-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-act?>
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/07/01/trump-big-beautiful-bill-health-care-medicaid-impacts/>
 - <https://www.barrons.com/articles/trump-bill-healthcare-medicaid-changes-542cc149>
 - <https://www.thedailybeast.com/trump-faces-maga-revolt-as-big-beautiful-bill-blows-up-over-medicaid/>
 - <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/06/29/megabill-byrd-alaska-megabill-parliamentarian-00431730?>
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/06/28/trump-big-bill-senate/>

Coverage for Immigrants & Planned Parenthood

- Federal match denied for care to undocumented immigrants or Planned Parenthood services
 - <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/06/26/one-big-beautiful-bill-act-winners-and-losers-in-the-medicaid-provisions/>
 - <https://www.lathropgpm.com/insights/where-to-medicaid-house-legislation-makes-significant-changes-senate-future-is-uncertain/>
 - <https://www.thedailybeast.com/trump-faces-maga-revolt-as-big-beautiful-bill-blows-up-over-medicaid/>
- Senate dropped or reworked some immigrant/clinic restrictions following parliamentary review

Enrollment & Renewal Delays

- Delays implementation of Biden-era enrollment reforms (streamlined renewals, relaxed checks) until **2035**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Big_Beautiful_Bill_Act?

Coverage Churn & Patient Burden

- Analysts warn increased **coverage churn**, more paperwork, disrupted care, and long-term cost impacts
 - <https://time.com/7298891/rural-hospitals-closing-explained-health-care/>
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/07/01/trump-big-beautiful-bill-health-care-medicaid-impacts/>
 - <https://www.vox.com/health-care/418431/big-beautiful-bill-lose-medic-aid-trump>
 - <https://www.barrons.com/articles/trump-bill-healthcare-medicaid-changes-542cc149?>

3. Medicare Provisions

- **4% across-the-board cuts** to Medicare funding starting **2026**, totaling ~\$500 billion over eight years unless altered
 - <https://www.kiplinger.com/retirement/medicare/changes-to-medicare-in-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-act?>
 - <https://www.kff.org/tracking-the-medicare-provisions-in-the-2025-budget-bill/>
- **HSAs changes:** House version expanded contributions for Part A enrollees; Senate version dropped this feature
 - <https://www.kiplinger.com/retirement/medicare/changes-to-medicare-in-the-one-big-beautiful-bill-act>
- **Dual-eligibles:** Eliminates automatic Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) enrollment when Medicaid eligibility ends, affecting ~1.38 million people
 - <https://www.sheppardhealthlaw.com/2025/06/articles/medicaid/congressional-budget-proposal-includes-adjustments-to-dual-eligible-enrollment-pathways-and-medicare-savings-program-rules/>
- **Medicare savings programs** and regulations may be delayed.

4. Projected Impacts

On Patients

- **Coverage losses:**
 House CBO estimates: ~10.9 million lose Medicaid by 2034 ; Senate analysis says ~11.8 million

- <https://www.sheppardhealthlaw.com/2025/06/articles/medicaid/congressional-budget-proposal-includes-adjustments-to-dual-eligible-enrollment-pathways-and-medicare-savings-program-rules/>
- <https://www.lathropgpm.com/insights/where-to-medicaid-house-legislation-makes-significant-changes-senate-future-is-uncertain/>
- <https://arstechnica.com/health/2025/06/nearly-12-million-people-would-lose-health-insurance-under-senate-gop-bill/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Big_Beautiful_Bill_Act?
- [The GOP's big bill would bring changes to Medicaid for millions | AP News](#)
- Combined effect of ACA and Medicaid changes: ~7.8 million additional uninsured
 - <https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/how-will-the-2025-budget-reconciliation-affect-the-aca-medicaid-and-the-uninsured-rate/>
- **Higher cost burden:** Work rules, fees, paperwork create hurdles.
- **Specific vulnerable groups hit:** low-income families, rural/children's/long-term care patients, people with disabilities, immigrants, dual eligibles
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Big_Beautiful_Bill_Act
 - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicaid>

On Providers

- **Rural/community hospitals:** Reduced provider tax and funding volatility may push closures
 - [The GOP's big bill would bring changes to Medicaid for millions | AP News](#)
- Loss of reimbursements for uninsured immigrants and clinic closures (e.g., Planned Parenthood) will strain providers .
- **Increased administrative burden,** with states overhauling systems to track work status, recertify, verify eligibility.