



## Lessons from California

### FIGHTING FOR MEDICAID IN 2017

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California, like all states, has a lot to lose if the Affordable Care Act is repealed. California prides itself in leading the way in Affordable Care Act implementation and taking great strides to increase health coverage and access. California's Medicaid program, Medi-Cal, is a significant driver in transforming the health care landscape, covering 13 million low-income individuals statewide and more than one-quarter of the population in 49 of the state's 58 counties. But the plans of the incoming administration pose significant threats to these gains. If Medi-Cal is cut, reduced, or drastically altered, the harm felt across the state would be devastating.

#### STRATEGY AND ACTIONS:

Advocates and stakeholders are responsible for shaping the public conversation at local, state, and federal levels. We must carry the message that Medicaid (Medi-Cal) matters and we will fight to protect it. Here are a few key talking points and resources:

- **Medi-Cal is for us.** Even if you don't rely on Medi-Cal yourself, it's very likely Medi-Cal is helping somebody you know. NHeLP [is collecting stories](#) to illustrate how important health care access is.
- **Medi-Cal is a critical program.** It is far more than a safety net program. From childhood immunizations to chemotherapy to mental health services, Medi-Cal provides all care that is medically necessary. Learn more about who is on Medi-Cal with these fact sheets:
  - What's at Stake (Families USA): [in California](#) | [other states](#)
  - State by State Impact (CBPP): [California](#) | [other states](#)
- **Proposals to alter Medi-Cal to increase state "flexibility" are flawed.** Opponents of health reform are peddling the empty promise that cutting or changing Medicaid funding will somehow improve states' control. No matter how they sell it, these proposals will all debilitate the program. Learn more from NHeLP about how these proposals actually work
  - [NHeLP Fact Sheet: What is a Per Capita Cap?](#)
  - [NHeLP Fact Sheet: Per Capita Caps vs. Block Grants](#)
  - [NHeLP Series: Protect Medicaid Funding](#)
- **Medi-Cal is an innovative program.** Know [your state's 1115 waiver](#) plans. [California's latest 1115 Waiver](#) aims to transform dental care delivery systems; to initiate a whole person care pilot to coordinate physical health, behavioral health, and social services; and to improve substance use disorder care.
- **Medi-Cal and the Affordable Care Act are good for the economy.** Thousands of jobs were created by the Affordable Care Act, and [repeal would be devastating to California's economy](#). In addition, [many working parents rely on Medi-Cal](#) for their families.

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[NHeLP's Protect Medicaid Funding Series](#)

[CBPP's FAQs on Medicaid](#)

[Western Center on Law & Poverty: Threats to Medi-Cal](#)

[CA's #Fight4OurHealth Campaign](#)