



Summary: Making Sense of Federal Policy Series

Funder Briefing: 2

Date: March 20, 2025

Topic: [CNJG Making Sense of Federal Policy Understanding What it Means for NJ: Health](#)

Speaker: Heather Howard, Professor of the Practice - Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs

HIGHLIGHTS

Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs – Heather Howard

- [State Health and Value Strategies \(SHVS\)](#) assists states in their efforts to transform healthcare by providing targeted technical assistance to state officials and agencies. The program is a grantee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, led by staff at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs.
 - The program connects states with experts and peers to undertake healthcare transformation initiatives.
- **Affordable Care Act (ACA) celebrating 15 years**
 - ACA has dramatically lowered the number of uninsured, reduced disparities, and ensured stable, affordable coverage during the pandemic. Lowest rate of uninsurance in NJ – due to Medicaid expansion — uninsurance is at 8%, significantly lower than national average.
- **Medicaid Expansion**
 - **NJ FamilyCare** now covers 1.8 million people: 1 in 5 New Jerseyans!
 - **Get Covered NJ** — Enrollment in Get Covered New Jersey, the state's official health insurance marketplace, has more than doubled.
 - 90% of people enrolling in Get Covered NJ qualify for financial help.
- **Impact on Medicaid - Congressional Budget Resolution Would Cut Medicaid**
 - The potential reduction of the FMAP from 90% for Medicaid expansion populations to lower rates could jeopardize the state's ability to maintain current coverage levels.
 - Budget resolution instructs the House Energy & Commerce Committee (E&C) to reduce the federal deficit by at least \$880 billion over 10 years.
 - Medicaid comprises 93% of non-Medicare spending within E&C jurisdiction.
 - Medicaid plays a critical role in addressing housing insecurity and homelessness through a variety of authorities such as 1115 waivers, 1915i waivers, and in lieu of service which can cover services like tenancy, housing navigation, and limited rental assistance.
 - Changes in eligibility rules and work requirements could further restrict access to Medicaid services.
- **Consequences for Health Care Providers — Hospital Challenges**

- Proposed funding cuts have dire consequences for health care providers, particularly those serving low-income populations.
- Hospitals are facing increased financial strain, impacting care quality and availability.
- Hospitals that rely heavily on Medicaid funding may face devastating financial implications if cuts occur, which could lead to reduced services or closures.
 - Cooper Hospital could lose \$63 million.
 - 1 out of 4 hospital patients are on Medicaid.
- **Impact on Community**
 - Medicaid cuts extend beyond health care, affecting various social sections of health, including housing and food security.
 - Seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income families are particularly at risk of losing vital services due to funding cuts.
- **Effect on Mental Health**
 - Risk to mental health services due to potential funding cuts and reimbursement issues.
- **Public Response and Advocacy**
 - Understanding executive and legislative actions is critical in shaping healthcare policy.
 - Importance of raising awareness among communities and policymakers.
 - Mobilizing community awareness and advocacy is necessary to protect Medicaid.
 - Focus on educating policymakers about the potential impacts of Medicaid cuts on the health care system and vulnerable populations.
 - Collaboration among stakeholders, including funders and health care providers, is essential to address the challenges posed by potential policy changes.
 - The importance of grassroots advocacy, particularly from those directly affected by Medicaid cuts, cannot be overstated.
 - Engagement in ongoing discussions about health care policy will be vital as New Jersey navigates these challenges in the coming years.

Additional Resources

- [Op-Ed: The Affordable Care Act at 15 years old — successful, but facing challenges](#)