



Medicaid is Essential

Alameda County Health is the local government agency that promotes and protects the health and well-being of all who live, work, learn, and play in Alameda County. Our departments and major programs include **Behavioral Health, Public Health, Environmental Health, Housing & Homelessness Services, Emergency Medical Services, and indigent care programs**. AC Health has a total annual budget of \$1.9B. **Approximately 28% of the total agency revenue is from federal sources** (65% Medicaid/Medicare reimbursements, 35% other federal aid).

Medicaid Provides Health Coverage for 30% of Alameda County's Population. Approximately 500,000 people in Alameda County rely on Medicaid.¹ **Over 18,000 Medicaid enrollees** receive County Behavioral Health Services.²

Medicaid is Crucial to Countering Health Inequities. Medicaid is critical to preventing illness, injury, and premature mortality for the whole population and especially those affected by inequities. **Nearly 40% of African American/Black residents and more than 50% of Latinx residents** of Alameda County rely on Medicaid.³

Medicaid is Important for Children's Health. Medicaid pays for services for underserved children with chronic conditions and complex health needs. Medicaid provides essential support to patients giving birth. Those covered by Medicaid were more likely to be affected by prenatal or postpartum depression relative to patients with private insurance.



28% of Medicaid enrollees in Alameda County are children.⁴



27% of births in Alameda County are covered by Medicaid.⁵



More than 50% of births to African American/Black and Latinx residents are covered by Medicaid.

Medicaid Supports Older Adults and People with Disabilities. Over 64,000 Alameda County residents aged 65 or older are covered by Medi-Cal.⁶ Seniors face barriers to employment and alternate coverage options. They also have higher health care needs and rely on Medicaid to cover necessary care such as long-term care.⁷



20% of people aged 65 to 74 and 46% of people aged 75 and older are living with disabilities



28,045 Alameda County residents were living with Alzheimer's Disease in 2019. That number is expected to grow by 30% by 2025. Medicaid provides essential support for their care.



49,432 people aged 65 or older are "Duals," with both Medicare and Medi-Cal coverage. Many have multiple chronic conditions and complex care needs.

Medicaid Helps Alameda County Residents Experiencing Homelessness

- 85% (approximately 8,285 at a point in time count) of the homeless population in Alameda County is eligible for Medi-Cal managed care.

¹ Alameda County Behavioral Health Department, with data from California Department of Health Services Medi-Cal Eligibility Tape from December 2024

² Alameda County Behavioral Health Department services include Medi-Cal Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder services and MH services funded through other state and local sources. Most services are provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

³ Diana, A. 2023. "A Look at Navigating the Health Care System: Medicaid Consumer Perspectives". Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved February 24, 2025.

⁴ Rosenbaum, S. 2025. "What Lies Ahead For Medicaid In Budget Reconciliation?". Health Affairs. Retrieved February 24, 2025.

⁵ Alameda County Community Assessment Planning and Evaluation. 2023. "Alameda County Perinatal And Infant Health Indicators". Alameda County Public Health Department, MPCA Indicators Slide Set. February 2023.

⁶ Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County. 2025. "Impact of California's FY 24/25 Budget on Older Adults in Alameda County". Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County. Retrieved February 24, 2025.

⁷ Burns, A. 2025. "5 Key Facts about Medicaid Coverage for People with Disabilities". Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved February 24, 2025.

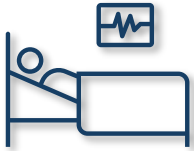
- 5,329 clients have been engaged in Community Support Services through California’s Medi-Cal CalAIM program. 2,100 clients have received CalAIM housing support services.⁸

Protecting Medicaid is Essential

Cuts to Medicaid will result in an **increase in the number of residents without access to essential health services**, fewer lifesaving services for pregnant and postpartum people, infants and children, LGBTQ people, unhoused individuals, seniors, and people at highest risk for chronic and communicable diseases. **Limiting access to Medicaid will result in a sharp increase in the uninsured population in Alameda County.**

- Loss of Medicaid coverage for vaccines could lead to an increase in disease outbreaks in infants, children, adults, and seniors.
- Ending ACA expansion could increase the uninsured population by as much as 74% in parts of Alameda County.⁹
- As many as 63% of adults in parts of Alameda County could be at risk of losing Medi-Cal coverage due to work requirements.¹⁰

Human Impact Stories



Medicaid Supports Integrated Health and Housing: David’s Story

David, 37, experienced 21 hospitalizations in a year. Fortunately, he could benefit from OakDays, a partially Medicaid-funded program providing supportive housing and enhanced clinical services for medically frail individuals and families in Alameda County. OakDays helped David enter a safe home environment and supported him with crucial services such as on-site methadone treatment and home hemodialysis. Since entering OakDays, David has not had a single hospitalization and improved his health. A recent study found that OakDays residents experienced a 78% reduction in hospitalizations, translating to an estimated \$3.5 million in health care cost savings. Implementing partner Cardea Health estimates that approximately 300 individuals in Alameda County could benefit from similar integrated care models.



Medicaid Provides Lifesaving Care for Severely Ill Children: Jamal’s Story

Jamal was born in deep East Oakland, in a neighborhood of concentrated poverty. Jamal was diagnosed prenatally with one of the most serious forms of congenital heart defects, in which one side of his heart did not develop. Babies born with this condition typically have a staged series of three palliative surgeries that allow them to live well into adulthood. These surgeries and the lifelong treatment that goes with them are prohibitively expensive without Medicaid. Fortunately, Jamal is enrolled in California Children’s Services (CCS), a state public health program that serves children and youth with serious health conditions such as an injury or a chronic illness like cerebral palsy or cancer from birth to 21 years of age. CCS provides access to medical specialists, medications, and medical equipment. Five life-saving surgeries—plus numerous procedures, hospital stays, therapies, and prescriptions—have helped Jamal become a thriving high school freshman pursuing interests in robotics and baseball. Jamal is one of the 6,600 children served by CCS in Alameda County, and 190,000 in California. Over 90% of CCS participants are on Medicaid. Any cuts to Medicaid will impact Jamal’s health and possibly his very survival and that of many severely ill and disabled children and adults who rely on Medicaid for vital, lifesaving and life-changing treatment.

⁸ CalAIM Community Supports are services that help Medi-Cal members address non-medical needs that can affect their health. These services are designed to improve health, stability, and independence. CS available in Alameda County include housing services, personal care, and medically tailored meals, asthma remediation, respite services, and others.

⁹ Without ACA Medicaid expansion, estimated increase in uninsured population in Alameda County congressional district (CD) 12 is 74% and CD14 is 65.2% (Urban Institute. Health Insurance Policy Simulation Model (HIPSM), 2025).

¹⁰ Adults at risk of losing Medi-Cal coverage due to work requirements: CD12 63% (148K), CD14 58% (104K) (*Adults at risk of losing health coverage*, Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, 2024).



Medicaid Helps Families Understand and Manage Childhood Asthma

Alameda County's Asthma Start program supports families with children enrolled in Medicaid who have poorly controlled asthma. The program provides education on asthma triggers, proper use of medication, and a home assessment to determine any asthma triggers within the home. If parents can give their child the preventive inhalers and avoid asthma triggers, they can avoid emergency room visits and hospitalizations. An Asthma Start social worker conducted an assessment for Asthma triggers for at the home of a family with a 6-year-old struggling with asthma. The family learned their current cooking methods and deferred furnace maintenance were likely triggers for their son's asthma. Through the program, the family received an air purifier that they feel has improved the health of everybody in the home.