Missouri Medicaid Basics

2026 At-a-Glance

Across the state in 2026, MO HealthNet:



Covers **1** out of every **5** people



Covers **39%** of children



Pays for **2/3** of nursing home care

What is Medicaid?

Missouri's Medicaid program (MO HealthNet) provides health insurance for low-income children and parents, adults aged 19-64, seniors aged 65+, pregnant women, and people with disabilities. It allows Missourians to see a doctor when they are sick, get check-ups, buy medications, and go to the hospital. Having health insurance makes it possible for Missourians to maintain their health, go to work, and take care of their families..

Who is enrolled in MO HealthNet?

Many different types of people are covered, though most enrollees are kids.

Eligible groups include parents, children, pregnant women, adults aged 19-64, seniors aged 65+, and persons who are blind or disabled.



MO HealthNet Income Eligibility

Covered Populations	Income Guidelines
Non-CHIP Children (ages 1-18)	<148% FPL*
CHIP-premium Children	<300% FPL*
Pregnant Women	<196% FPL*
Individuals with a Disability	<85% FPL*
Older Adults (age 65+)	<85% FPL*
Blind Individuals	<100% FPL*
Parents	~12-13% FPL*
Expansion Adults (age 19-64)	<133% FPL*

*Federal Poverty Level (e.g., $27,320 per year for a family of three in 2026)

45% of enrollees are under the age of 19

Families and children use fewer resources.

Although families and children make up 54% of all enrollees, they use only 27% of MO HealthNet's budget. By contrast, older adults and people with disabilities comprise 17% of enrollees but use 49% of the budget.

Medicaid benefits all Missourians.

Medicaid is a state and federal partnership. The federal government provides $1.82 for every dollar that Missouri spends on MO HealthNet.

The federal government is projected to decrease critical revenue support for Medicaid in Missouri by 10%, or roughly $12 billion, over the next decade, putting up to 196,000 Missourians at risk of losing their coverage.

In some rural areas, more than 40% of Missourians are covered by MO HealthNet. Federal funding supports hospitals and other health care providers in rural areas that rely on Medicaid dollars to keep their doors open.

How is MO HealthNet financed?

The majority of MO HealthNet is funded through the federal government.

About 1/5 of MO HealthNet's funding for SFY 2027 comes from state general revenue:

9%
Other
(including Federal Reimbursement Allowance; see full publication for more info)

21%
State General Revenue



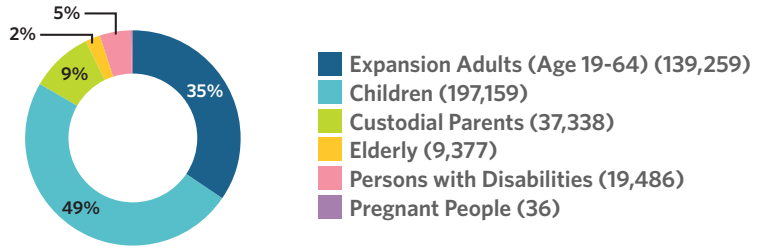
70%
Federal Funds



Budget cuts in 2027 may reflect similar coverage losses as seen during the unwinding period

H.R. 1, the federal budget bill passed in 2025, reduces federal Medicaid spending by roughly $911 billion over 10 years, while also requiring sweeping new program changes that state agencies must now administer with less funding.

Coverage Losses During The Unwinding Period in Missouri (June 2023 - May 2024)



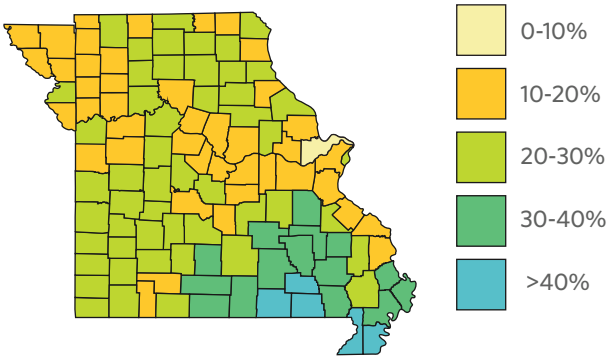
During the unwinding period in Missouri, almost 1.4 million cases were reviewed. Of these, 29% lost coverage. Almost three-quarters of these terminations were the result of missing paperwork, not necessarily because they no longer qualify.

As the number of procedural terminations increased, more Missourians experienced gaps in health coverage while reapplying, thus creating a significant backlog and longer processing times between July 2023 and February 2024.

Coverage losses seen during the unwinding reflect a strained system and an overburdened state agency, resulting in unnecessary procedural terminations. While the impacts of H.R. 1 still remain mostly unclear, many credible analyses predict similar losses in 2027 and beyond.

Missourians from across the state are enrolled in MO HealthNet

Average MO HealthNet Enrollment by County



Missouri Foundation for Health

To learn more about MO HealthNet eligibility and enrollment, covered services, delivery systems, financing and expenditures, and more, read our full Missouri Medicaid Basics 2026 publication.