

What Could State Budget Cuts to Medicaid and CHIP Mean To You?



Texas lawmakers are considering dangerous cuts to Texas Medicaid and CHIP that will have serious consequences for families like yours. Today, Medicaid and CHIP are there to meet your family's needs. Tomorrow could be very different.

Scenarios that could increasingly occur if today's cuts become tomorrow's law:

You may walk into a doctor's office to get a checkup for your child, only to find that the doctor is no longer accepting CHIP and Medicaid patients or they have closed their doors, as it is no longer financially viable for them to sustain their practice.

For your Daughter:

When your daughter has a serious toothache, she might have to miss school and you have to miss work to take her to the emergency room, since you aren't able to find a dentist in your area who can afford to take Medicaid patients anymore.

For your Son:

Today, if he is diagnosed with asthma, you can get the inhaler he needs right in your neighborhood. Tomorrow, pharmacy payment cuts could mean you can't get his medicine locally and must drive nearly an hour to find a pharmacy to fill his prescription, or you're forced to pay out of pocket.

For your Sister:

Your sister, pregnant for the first time, might have a very difficult time finding a doctor to get the prenatal care that she needs and forgoes important check-ups. As a result, her daughter is born premature and at low birth weight and suffers from expensive health complications—some of which could affect her for life.

For your Father:

Today, his home health aide makes it possible for him to continue to live safely and independently in his own home. Tomorrow, cuts to home health care services could make finding home help harder. He could be forced to move into a state-run institution and surrender his independence to get the care he needs.

For your Niece:

After getting t-boned by a drunk driver, your niece is rushed to the nearest hospital. Today, she would likely be admitted for care in the nearest ER, but cuts to Medicaid put all hospital facilities and services at risk. Tomorrow, the paramedics may be told that the hospital is on divert status due to overcrowding and short-staffing, and that she will have to be transferred to the next hospital much farther away, lowering her chances for survival.

For your Cousin:

Your intellectually disabled cousin may have a harder time finding access to the support services that have helped him get the occupational and physical therapy he needs in order to hold down a job, making him less able to integrate in the community and adding to the stress of your family.

For your Grandmother:

Your elderly grandmother who had been living relatively comfortably in a nursing home, despite her progressing Alzheimer's, may be forced to move 50 miles away because the rural nursing home where she

resided had to close its doors. The state's severe cuts to provider reimbursement rates would make it financially impossible to stay open. As a result, you and your children and other family members are not able to see her as frequently, must spend more money on gas to visit her, and you worry that you are not able to check on her condition and the quality of her care regularly.

For You:

While visiting family over the weekend in rural West Texas, you severely sprain and possibly fracture your ankle. It is only then that you realize that the local emergency center has closed, and you will have to drive another 75 miles to be examined in the one remaining hospital in that area, which will also be more crowded.

**It's not too late to prevent cuts to Medicaid and CHIP.
Let the following key lawmakers know these programs matter
to you and your family.**

Members of the Budget Conference Committee

Senator Robert Duncan: [1-888-723-0408](tel:1-888-723-0408)

Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa: [1-888-812-0531](tel:1-888-812-0531)

Senator Jane Nelson: [1-888-514-5807](tel:1-888-514-5807)

Senator Steve Ogden: [1-888-510-4580](tel:1-888-510-4580)

Senator Tommy Williams: [1-888-514-8930](tel:1-888-514-8930)

Representative Myra Crownover: [1-888-958-8864](tel:1-888-958-8864)

Representative John Otto: [1-888-644-2670](tel:1-888-644-2670)

Representative Jim Pitts: [1-888-823-9190](tel:1-888-823-9190)

Representative Sylvester Turner: [1-888-828-0051](tel:1-888-828-0051)

Representative John Zerwas: [1-888-838-0224](tel:1-888-838-0224)

For additional information or assistance, contact:

Children's Defense Fund–Texas
4500 Bissonnet, Suite 260
Bellaire, Texas 77401

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