

The 2025 Legislative Session: A Forecast...



Montana Medicaid: What's at Stake in the 2025 Session

Stacey Anderson
Montana Primary Care Association

The Executive Branch

Candidate likely to be our next Governor:

Governor Greg Gianforte and Lt. Gov Kristen Juras

Executive Branch Staff who impact healthcare:

Charlie Brereton: Director of MT DPHHS

Rachel Green: Policy Director

Rebecca de Camara: Medicaid Director

Ryan Osmundson: Director of Budget and Program Planning

Sarah Swanson: Commissioner of Department of Labor

HOT Issues for 2025

Bill requests as of 10/10: 562

Revenue: The State Budget

- Modest surplus expected, not nearly as much as 2023
- Economic slowdown in key sectors.

Election Initiatives

- CI 126: Top 4 Primary Election
- CI 127: Majority Vote Required

Property Taxes: Competing Relief legislation

- Homestead Exemption, Ag land classification

Housing

- Affordable housing, zoning

School Funding

- Most 2024 local levies failed

HOT Healthcare Issues for 2025

Medicaid Expansion

- Current program sunsets June 30, 2025
- Competing concepts

Medicaid Administration

- Presumptive Eligibility for Seniors (CFHHS interim committee bill)
- Offices of Public Assistance
- Continuous Eligibility

Behavioral Health/Mental Health: 872 Commission

- 22 Recommendations
- 11 Near Term Initiatives (NTI)

Medicaid Coverage



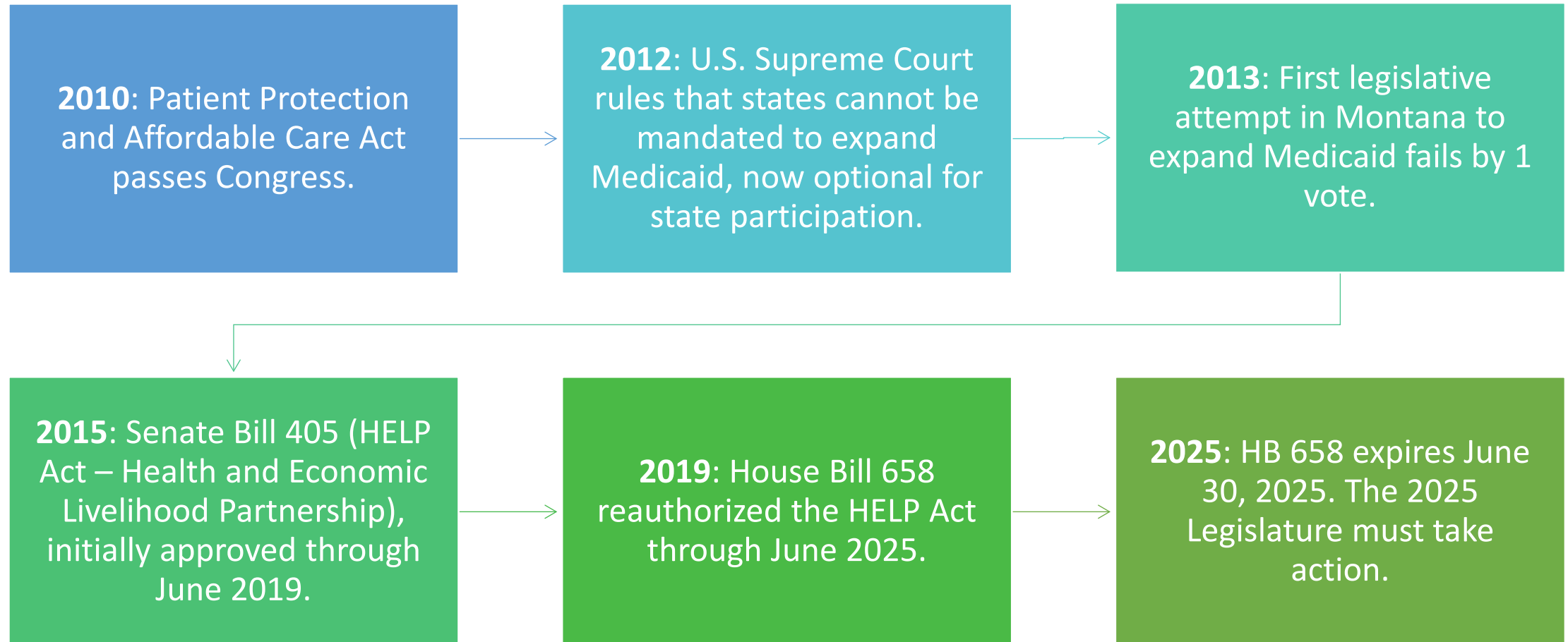
0 to 25% FPL - Traditional Medicaid, Parents Only

0 to 138% - Medicaid Expansion, Childless Adults

25 to 138% - Medicaid Expansion, Parents

138 to 400% - Market Place Subsidies

MT Medicaid Expansion Timeline



EXPANDED MEDICAID LEGISLATION



2015

Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Act,

Ed Buttrey (R-Great Falls)

- Included premiums for some participants
- Sunset June 30, 2019 – 2019 legislation required to continue.



2019

Montana renewed Medicaid expansion (MeRIA Act)

- Included work reporting requirements – never implemented.
- In 2021, CMS ended Montana's authority to charge premiums.
- Sunsets June 30, 2025 – 2025 legislation required to continue

IS THE 2025 MEDICAID EXPANSION ... AN EXPANSION?

We aren't proposing any fundamental changes to the current Medicaid program.

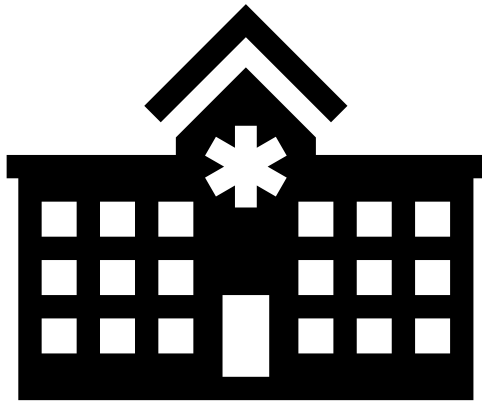
- Same age range: 19-64
- Same FPL: 138% FPL

We are calling for a *continuation of Montana's current Medicaid program.*

MEDICAID KEEPS HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBLE

Substance Use Disorder Treatment

- Providers grew from 95 to 208
- \$5.1 million to \$24.3 million



Rural Hospitals

- Uncompensated care at critical access hospitals and rural health clinics declined by 35%
- 136 rural hospitals closed between 2010-2021
 - 74 in non-expansion states
 - None in Montana

WHY DOES MEDICAID MATTER TO MT TRIBES?

The United States has trust and treaty obligations to federally recognized tribes, including the provision of healthcare services, historically funded through Indian Health Services. IHS, woefully underfunded for DECADES, has not been sufficient to meet the healthcare needs of tribes – especially for tribes without an IHS facility or urban Indians.

With limited funding through IHS, Medicaid Expansion for adults has allowed IHS and Urban Indian facilities to bill expansion states for eligible healthcare services thereby adding an additional payor to their systems and stretching the scarce resources available through IHS.

Since expansion in Montana, eight Tribal nations are able to expand their services to better meet the needs of their communities and members. Regular access to such services as prenatal care, mammograms, dental care, and kidney dialysis is changing the lives of Montana's indigenous people.

FMAP: The Federal Medical Assistance Percentage

The percent of the program paid by the federal government



Medicaid Expansion makes fiscal sense to Montana

MEDICAID EXPANSION BENEFITS MONTANA'S ECONOMY



- Helps create and sustain over 7,500 jobs
- Generated estimated \$475 million in personal income
- Fuels \$775 million in economic activity EVERY YEAR

CONCERN:

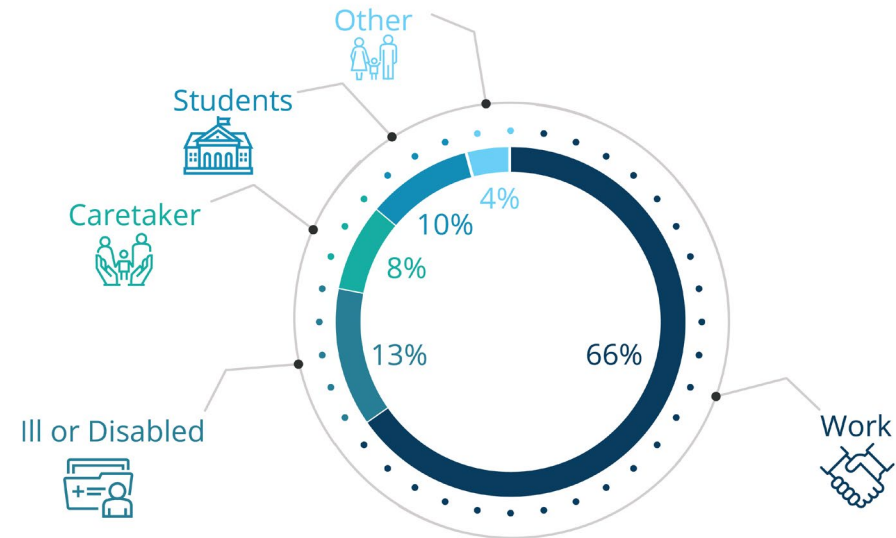
Should people report their work activities to qualify?

REALITY:

96% OF ENROLLEES WORK OR FACE A BARRIER TO WORK

WORK REPORTING REQUIREMENTS LEAD TO LESS HEALTH CARE, NOT MORE WORK

Most Montanans on Medicaid Expansion Work



COMMON MEDICAID INDUSTRIES

- Housekeeping
- Child care workers
- Food preparation workers
- Cooks
- Personal aides
- Bakers
- Agriculture
- Construction

COMMON REASONS PEOPLE WORK PART-TIME

Insufficient full-time employment options

Lack of child care and external family obligations

Health or medical limitations

Retired

School or training programs



HOW TO GET INVOLVED!
OLIVIA RIUTTA, MPCA

TELL YOUR STORY OR ENCOURAGE SOMEONE TO TELL THEIRS!

Storytelling is one of the most effective ways we have to communicate to legislators how the decisions they make will impact the lives of everyday Montanans and why it's so important to re-authorize Medicaid Expansion and lift the sunset.

Several organizations are actively collecting stories about lived experience with Medicaid – helping individuals tell their story is key.

MT Women Vote

ACS-CAN

Rocky Boy Health Center



1. You can start the process of telling your story by filling out the story collection form at www.healthymontana.org/get-involved



2. A MWV staff member will reach out after you've filled out the form to learn about who you are and how expanded Medicaid has impacted your life.



3. From there, they'll work with you to figure out a way to share your story that makes the most sense for you. For example, that might be through: testifying at the Legislature, writing a letter to the editor for your local paper, including your story in a storybook, and more.

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

Writing a letter-to-the-editor or OpEd in support of Medicaid Expansion

Attend an advocacy day or rally in Helena during the session

Contact your legislators via the legislative switchboard and email

Phonebank with organizations to encourage others to get involved

MWV's Policy & Leadership Institute (PLI) February 14 & 15, 2025 in Helena, MT

For MPCA members, we have a Policy and Issues Day on March 5th and 6th in Helena

Questions?

Q & A

CONTACT INFO

STACEY ANDERSON

standersonmt@gmail.com