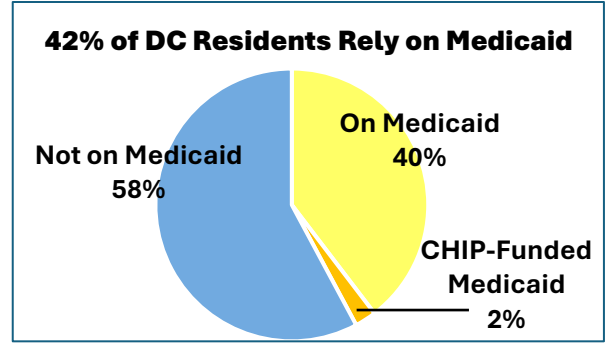




Congress may cut federal matching funds for the DC Medicaid Program. This **cut could be \$1.1 billion or larger and would affect the 286,000+ District residents** who rely on Medicaid for their health care (42% of residents, more than any state).

This matters to everyone in the District because these cuts would send shockwaves through the DC health care system and force many residents who rely on Medicaid to seek care from hospital emergency rooms, adding to the strain on the health care system. The DC government may raise taxes on businesses and residents to make up for lost funds.



The Message to Congress: Don't cut DC's federal matching funds for Medicaid (called the FMAP). If you provide care to a member of Congress or a Hill staffer, you are in a unique position to be heard. Please call or send them a message to share your concerns.

[House Member Lookup](#)

[Senator Lookup](#)

What is the FMAP/Federal Match?

Federal matching funds for Medicaid for DC and all states: FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage)

The District of Columbia receives:

- A 70% federal match (FMAP) for standard Medicaid.
- A 90% federal match (FMAP) for the Medicaid expansion under Affordable Care Act (ACA)/Obamacare. DC and all states that expanded Medicaid under the ACA receive a 90% federal match for those costs.

The Potential Cuts to DC's Federal Match (FMAP)

#1 - Cut to Standard Federal Medicaid Match

70% FMAP → 50%

A reduction of the 70% match to 50% or lower is under consideration.

Cut #1: \$731 Million Annually

Dental coverage could be eliminated from DC Medicaid.

#2 - Cut to Medicaid Expansion Federal Match

90% FMAP → 50%

The federal match for the Medicaid expansion could be reduced to 50% or lower.

Cut #2: \$373 Million Annually

Dental coverage and other "optional" coverage would be eliminated if combined with Cut #1.

Cuts #1 and #2 Combined: \$1.1 Billion Cut in Federal Matching Funds

Congress is considering reducing the minimum match below 50%, so the cut could be even bigger.

Why DC Receives a 70% Federal Match for Medicaid (FMAP)

DC receives a 70% federal match for its Medicaid Program because of a joint effort in the 1990s between President Bill Clinton and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich to ensure the District remained financially viable.

As our nation's capital, DC incurs costs for services that other cities typically receive financial support from their state or the federal government (e.g., for jails, courts, schools, hospitals). In addition, federal law limits the District's ability to tax and also sets certain limits on economic development (e.g., the building height limit). As a result of these combined factors, by the 1990s the District was on the verge of financial insolvency.

President Clinton and Speaker Gingrich created a plan to increase financial support to the District for expenses related to: Medicaid, courts, jails and inmates, pension liabilities. As a result of this funding package, the federal match (FMAP) for DC Medicaid increased to 70%.

Additional background information is available from a [report by the Brookings Institution](#).