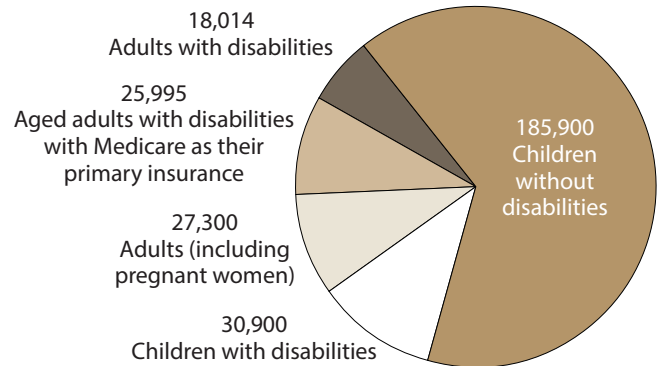


# MEDICAID MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

**Medicaid makes the difference for thousands of hard working, low income Idahoans.** Medicaid fills the gap when Idahoans fall on hard times and ensures they have access to health care as they recover from an illness or care for a sick child or loved one. If people are going to get back on their feet, find a job with a livable wage, or recover from a debilitating injury or illness, they need access to health care so they can get healthy and move forward.

**Idaho Medicaid covers qualifying individuals with children earning less than \$26,101 per year and families of 3 earning less than \$45,923 per year including<sup>1</sup>:**



## Medicaid Helps Idahoans Make Ends Meet



In Idaho, 65% of our Medicaid recipients are children, and nationally over 80% of Medicaid adults live in working families.<sup>2</sup> People working part time or making minimum wage often hold jobs where their employer doesn't offer insurance. Many people work non-traditional jobs that are flexible but don't come with benefits. For those Idahoans, Medicaid helps make ends meet without having to go without sometimes life-saving health care.

## Medicaid Provides Crucial Health Care

When Idahoans receive Medicaid, they can get preventative care rather than showing up in the emergency room when their condition has worsened. Seventy percent of new Medicaid enrollees who've used health services say Medicaid allowed them to get the care they need. Adults (ages 19-64) with Medicaid coverage who were insured all year reported getting recommended preventative care services at higher rates than did those who were uninsured.<sup>3</sup>



**19%**

**increase in  
seasonal flu shots  
received**

**15%**

**increase in  
cholesterol  
screenings**

**9%**

**increase in  
blood pressure  
screenings**

## Medicaid Makes Health Care Less Expensive for Every Idahoan

This fall Idaho voters will be asked whether or not they support the state expanding Medicaid. In states that have expanded their Medicaid programs, uncompensated care costs dropped by \$7.4 billion in just one year.<sup>4</sup> Instead of being left with billions in unpaid medical bills to cover, these states are able to invest taxpayer dollars in local communities for public education and transportation. These states have also experienced lower health insurance premiums, saving everyone money.

<sup>1</sup>Idaho Medicaid currently covers low-income children, many Idahoans with disabilities, low-income seniors, and low-income pregnant women.

<sup>2</sup>Idaho Department of Health and Welfare: "Facts, Figures, and Trends". 2017.v

<sup>3</sup>The Commonwealth Fund: "Why the U.S. Needs Medicaid". 2016

<sup>4</sup>US Department of Health and Human Services: "Insurance Expansion, Hospital Uncompensated Care, and the Affordable Care Act". 2015.