

# Ensuring Access to Care in Louisiana

## Medicaid Work Requirements & Their Impact on Health Center Patients

**The Medicaid program is an important source of health insurance coverage** for thousands of low-income individuals and families across Louisiana. Louisiana's Federally Qualified Health Centers (commonly known as Community Health Centers) depend on a robust Medicaid program in order to effectively improve the health of our state's medically underserved populations.

### Louisiana's Medicaid Program By the Numbers

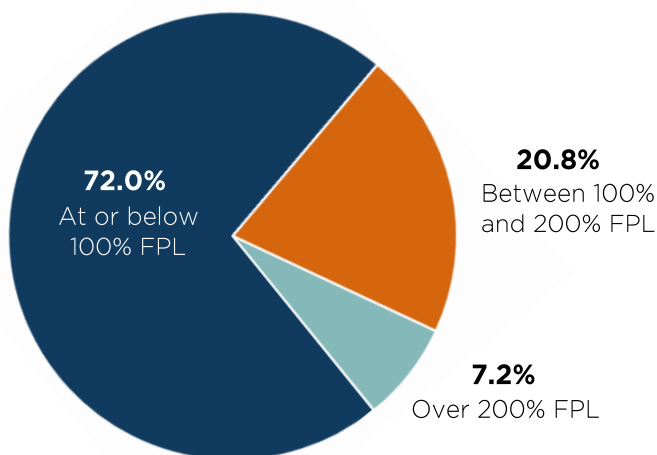
**Over 1.4 million people in Louisiana** are covered by Medicaid (20% of Louisiana's total population). While seven in ten are children and adults, more than two-thirds of the state's Medicaid spending is for the elderly and people with disabilities.<sup>1</sup>

- As of February 2018, over 464,000 Louisianans have enrolled in Medicaid Expansion, most of whom are working and earn too much money to qualify for traditional Medicaid.
- In FY2016, Medicaid spending in Louisiana was \$8.6 billion. The federal government shares 62.3% of the cost of our traditional Medicaid program, which means that every \$1 spent by the state will be matched with \$1.63 in federal funds.<sup>2</sup>
- 19% of Louisiana's general fund is spent on the Medicaid program.

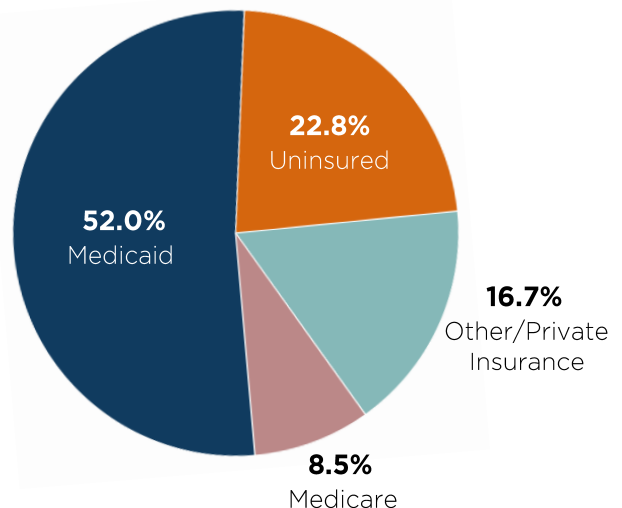
### The Importance of Medicaid to Louisiana's Community Health Centers

**In 2016, Louisiana's Community Health Centers served 384,893 individual patients**, over half of whom rely on Medicaid. Studies have shown that health centers are a highly cost-effective use of Medicaid funds. Last year alone, they saved the Medicaid program \$436 million by emphasizing preventive care and steering patients away from the emergency room.<sup>3</sup>

**Patient Income Level**



**FQHC Payer Mix**



# Ensuring Access to Care in Louisiana

## Medicaid Work Requirements & Their Impact on Health Center Patients

### The Numbers Don't Lie: Medicaid Recipients in the Workforce

**The majority of Medicaid recipients** are already in the workforce. Studies have shown that 73% of those on Medicaid are working or are in a working household.<sup>4</sup>



Of those not working:<sup>5</sup>

- 37% are disabled or suffering from illness
- 30% are taking care of disabled or elderly family members
- The others are in school, retired, or simply unable to find employment.

### Other Concerns Presented by Medicaid Work Requirements

**The Louisiana Primary Care Association and Louisiana's Community Health Centers** work to promote policies that increase access to healthcare and remove barriers for underserved populations. There are many reasons why Medicaid work requirements are not only detrimental to patients, but may actually cost more for the government in the long run:

- A strong Medicaid program is critical for Community Health Centers and their patients. Changes to Medicaid can disrupt the financial stability of health centers, as most patients rely on the program for coverage.
- The vast majority of Medicaid recipients either are working or want to join the workforce. Any barriers to accessing healthcare could adversely impact those who are seeking employment.
- Nearly 1/3 of Louisiana's population lives in a rural part of our state and many of them rely on Medicaid. Finding employment in these areas is very challenging.

<sup>1</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. (2017) *Medicaid in Louisiana Fact Sheet*

<sup>2</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. (2017) *Medicaid's Role in Louisiana*

<sup>3</sup> Capital Link. (2017) *Louisiana FQHC Value & Impact Study*

<sup>4, 5</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. (2017) *Medicaid in Louisiana Fact Sheet*