



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

Medicaid

Medicaid provides health coverage to nearly 9 million non-elderly individuals with disabilities. It offers [prescription drug coverage and standard medical benefits](#) like physician and hospital care; home- and community-based services that allow people with MS to remain independent and avoid premature admission to costlier institutional facilities; and [other forms of long-term services and support](#).

Medicaid in Mississippi

- Total enrollment: 772,200
- Percentage enrollees disabled: 22 percent
- Number enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid: 157,567

Medicaid Expansion

The Affordable Care Act sought to simplify Medicaid eligibility and provide coverage to all persons with income below 133 percent of the federal poverty level. The U.S. Supreme Court decision rendered the Medicaid expansion a state option.

Position: The National Multiple Sclerosis Society urges full expansion of Medicaid pursuant to the Affordable Care Act so that **all qualified Mississippians have access to affordable, comprehensive health care.**

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) typically is diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, when most are raising families, advancing careers and maximizing their earnings.

MS experts recommend people living with MS should begin treatment with one of the disease-modifying medications as soon as possible. Benefits of these medications may include:

- Reduction in numbers of new lesions;
- Reduction in the number of exacerbations (also called relapses, attacks, flare-ups);
- **Reduction in progression of disability; and**
- **Probable reduction in future disease activity and improvement in quality of life.**

The financial impact of MS on individuals and families can be devastating. Seventy percent of persons with MS report difficulty paying for health care, even with health insurance, and many are forced to delay doctor visits and split their medication doses or skip them altogether.

Leveraging federal dollars to provide health insurance to low-income Mississippians is a smart investment that could provide up to 300,000 individuals, including people with MS, affordable, comprehensive coverage.

Mississippi will leave nearly \$10 billion in federal health care dollars on the table over the ten years of full ACA implementation. This influx in federal dollars is expected to create **9,000 jobs** by 2025.

Uncompensated care under the Medicaid expansion is projected to drop 57 percent in Mississippi, saving nearly **\$300 million** annually.

For more information, please contact Clark Thomason, Manager, Southeast Advocacy, National MS Society, clark.thomason@nmss.org or 1.800.344.4867, ext. 15976