



**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 institutionalization; and provides other forms of long-term services and support.

Medicaid in Florida

- Medicaid serves approximately 3.3 million people in Florida.
- Fifteen percent of enrollees have a disability.
- There are close to 650,000 beneficiaries of both Medicare and Medicaid in Florida, known as “dual-eligibles.”

Medicaid Expansion in Florida

- **Florida has the second highest number of uninsured**, nearly 25 percent of our population. Experts predict that lower-income Floridians **will** forego recommended screenings, medications, and face a greater likelihood of depression, catastrophic medical expenses, and death.
- By accepting our federal tax dollars to expand Medicaid, we would create an estimated 55,000 permanent health care jobs in Florida.

Support the Expansion of Medicaid

Request

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Florida Chapters, urge the Legislature to pass **legislation to Expand Medicaid** to ensure that ***all qualified Floridians have access to quality, affordable and 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 Floridians is a smart investment that could provide up to 90,000 Floridians, including people with MS, affordable, comprehensive coverage. This would include those under 138 percent FPL-- \$15,865 for an individual and \$32,499 for a family of four.

Florida is losing roughly \$15 million per day by NOT expanding Medicaid. If all states implement the Medicaid expansion, states would see a net savings of \$10.1 billion in uncompensated care due to a decline in the number of uninsured and decrease is the amount of uncompensated care.