

Medicaid Provides States Significant Flexibility

Every State Has Its Own, Unique Program



States can design their own set of services, rates, and delivery systems

Congressional proposals have argued that states deserve more flexibility in their Medicaid programs. But states already have great flexibility in their Medicaid programs. Every state has a its own Medicaid plan. States can permanently alter the payments rates, services covered, benefit and benefit limits, and their cost-sharing in partnership with the federal government. They can also try out changes in services, payment models, and eligibility via five-year demonstration projects.¹ Citizens can play an important role in shaping how their state's program works.

Tools states use to make incredibly detailed changes to their Medicaid programs:

	<p>State Plan Amendments are permanent changes to a state’s program policies or operational approaches of Medicaid, such as changing prices, or broadening eligibility, or adding caps for certain services. More»</p>
	<p>1115 Waivers let states innovate by testing a change via a five-year demonstraton. Most demos involve reforming delivery systems, alternative approaches to Medicaid expansion, long-term services, and behavioral health. More»</p>
	<p>1915 (a) and 1915 (b) Waivers allow states to manage the cost-effectiveness and quality of Medicaid services by implementing managed care, where a state pays insurers a set monthly amount for each person the insurer covers. Illinois’ Medicaid is now largely a managed care program that aims to better coordinate care. More»</p>
	<p>1915 (c) Waivers enable states to provide Medicaid services via home and community-based programs. This lets people with disabilities stay in their home rather than being placed in an institution. More»</p>
	<p>Citizens Can Play an Important Role in shaping these programs, both by offering input on proposed changes during public comment periods and by becoming informed Medicaid advocates. More»</p>

Bottom line: States and their residents have the power to tailor their Medicaid programs to meet their needs

1. Families USA http://familiesusa.org/sites/default/files/product_documents/State-Plan-Amendments-and-Waivers.pdf