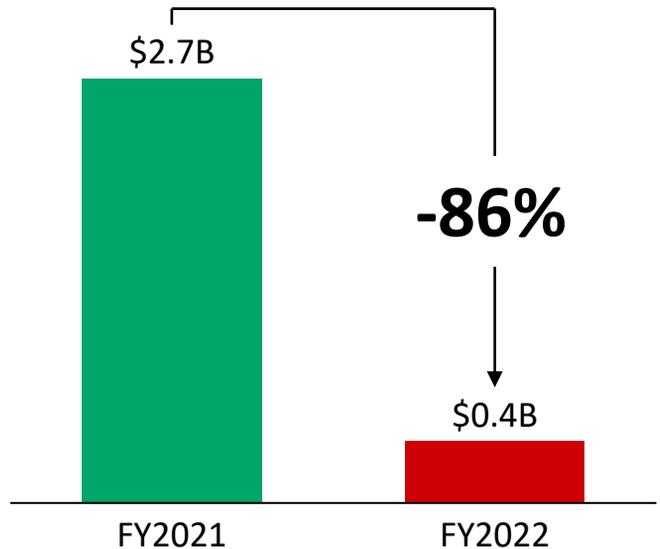


Congress Must Act This Year To Provide Equitable Treatment For Puerto Rico's Medicaid Program.



Federal Medicaid Spending In Puerto Rico By Fiscal Year, 2021-2022 (Billions Of Dollars)

With enhanced funding expiring on September 30, 2021, Puerto Rico is facing a devastating 86% cut in Medicaid funding this year.



Action Item: Congress and the Biden Administration should work together to enact legislation prior to September 30, 2021, to permanently treat Puerto Rico's Medicaid program the same as other U.S. jurisdictions.

The Background

Current federal law caps Puerto Rico Medicaid funding and contributes at a far lower federal matching rate than if Puerto Rico were treated like a state. This longstanding inequitable treatment leads to less care, lower reimbursement to providers, and reduced access to coverage. In recent years, Congress has intervened and provided short-term legislation to increase funding and a higher matching rate. Most recently, Congress provided \$5.7 billion for 2020 and 2021, as well as an increase in the federal matching rate to 76%, rather than the statutory 55% matching rate. This money also included new strict program integrity requirements focused on contracting and oversight.*

Lack of Certainty

These short-term solutions have not only created an unacceptable amount of uncertainty for healthcare stakeholders, but also prevented Puerto Rico from using the entire amount of money allocated by Congress. Despite significant need, the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (FOMB) has blocked Puerto Rico from implementing certain programs to assist vulnerable beneficiaries due to the lack of certainty around future funding. This leads to less long-term investments in Puerto Rico's fragile healthcare system.

Need for Action

Current short-term funding expires on September 30, 2021, at which time funding will revert to the statutory amount of approximately \$392 million and a 55% matching rate. Congress and the Biden Administration should address this issue once and for all by enacting legislation to treat Puerto Rico's Medicaid program equitably.

Medicaid equity is long past overdue for the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico!

Key Facts and Figures*

- 43% of Puerto Ricans are living in poverty compared to just 13% in the states.
- 1,4M people are enrolled in Puerto Rico's Medicaid, ~50% of the population.
- Puerto Rico's population has significantly higher rates of hypertension, diabetes, asthma, HIV/AIDS, and other medical conditions, making Puerto Rico an important test case for demonstrating the value of addressing the social determinants of health
- Due to insufficient funding, Puerto Rico is unable to cover 7/17 federally required benefits, including nursing homes, home health, and other key services.

*The Commonwealth Fund, "[How States Would Fare Under Medicaid Block Grants or Per Capita Caps: Lessons from Puerto Rico,](#)" (2021)

About MMAPA

MMAPA, the Medicaid and Medicare Advantage Products Association, is a non-profit composed of the leading Medicaid and Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations in Puerto Rico. Founded in 2009, MMAPA advocates for increased federal investment in the Puerto Rican health care system.

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