



SAVE THE DATE – June 23, 2026
My Pharmacy. My Choice. My Voice.

A Community Town Hall on Patient Access, PBMs, and the Future of Local Healthcare

Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2026 | Time: 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM | Location: Boswell Prescription Center, 210 Ohio Street, Boswell, PA

Please join Martella's Pharmacy and Pharmacists United for Truth and Transparency (PUTT), a national grassroots advocacy organization, for an important community conversation about protecting patient access and local pharmacies.

PUTT representatives will be onsite to hear your stories and help bring the voices of our communities to state leaders and beyond.

Complimentary food and beverages will be served.

Come join your neighbors, family, and friends to share your stories and learn what you can do to help ensure the voices of our communities are heard.

Your voice matters. Your story matters.

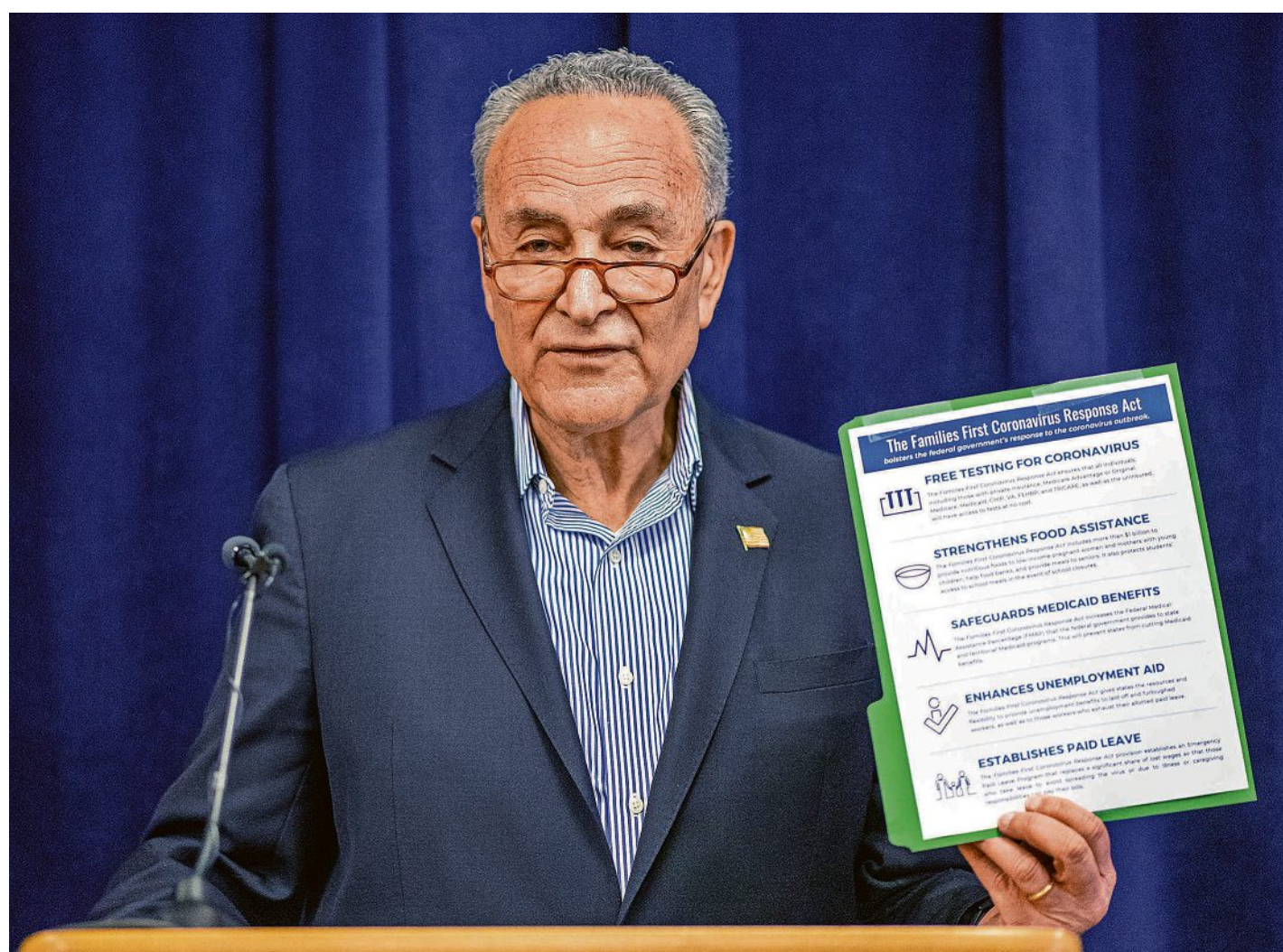


Daily American

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 | DAILYAMERICAN.COM

SOMERSET COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

25 million people lost Medicaid after pandemic



During the pandemic, routine Medicaid disenrollments largely stopped as part of the March 2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which included a provision requiring states to keep most people continuously enrolled in Medicaid in exchange for additional federal funding. DAVID DEE DELGADO/GETTY IMAGES

State policies shaped who stayed covered

Aparna Soni
Indiana University
THE CONVERSATION

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people covered by Medicaid rose month after month – an unusual pattern for the government's insurance program for people with low incomes and disabilities.

Why? A policy of continuous coverage during the pandemic essentially halted Medicaid disenrollment to make it easier for people to stay insured during the public health emergency. By early 2023, enrollment had reached an all-time high of more than 94 million people.

Then the trend abruptly reversed. Between April 2023 – when states began resuming eligibility checks that had been paused during the pandemic – and mid-2025, more than 25 million people were disenrolled from Medicaid. The process became known as the "Great Unwinding."

The most recent data shows that Medicaid enrollment has largely stabilized after several years of dramatic change. As of December 2025, the most recent month for which data is available, total enrollment stands at roughly 76 million – above prepandemic levels of about 71 million but below the pandemic peak of 94.1 million.

As a health economist who studies the effects of public policy on insurance coverage and health outcomes, I've been following these enrollment shifts closely. Now that the unwinding has mostly played out, Medicaid enrollment data reveal a fragmented, state-by-state picture. Coverage losses were not evenly distributed, reflecting differences in how states carried out eligibility checks and how much administrative burden they placed on eligible people trying to stay enrolled.

That patchwork of state policies still matters now. Under the 2025 budget law, as of Jan. 1, 2027, states will have to enforce new Medicaid work rules and more frequently check eligibility for many adults who gained coverage during the expansion. So the same administrative differences exposed by the rollback of Medicaid coverage after the pandemic are likely to play a role again in who keeps their coverage and who loses it.

Pandemic enrollment jump

Before the pandemic, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, which provides coverage for children in families with modest incomes, together covered about 71 million Americans.

Normally, people must regularly renew their eligibility for these programs by confirming their income and household information. States remove people who no longer qualify or who fail to complete

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Child care centers face hiring crisis due to low state funds

David Bruce
Erie Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Stacey Hellman taped large pieces of paper to her downtown Erie office walls soon after she became CEO of Early Connections in September.

Each sheet represented one of the nonprofit organization's four child care facilities: City Center, Harbor Homes, Union City and North East. Hellman listed all of a facility's open teaching positions on them.

"We had so many open positions that each one had its own sheet," Hellman said. "The average pay for our teachers at the time was around \$15 an hour. ... If you go to Target or Walgreen's, you earn \$18 to \$20 an hour. I understand why people would go there to support their families as opposed to coming here."

Child care centers across Pennsylvania are struggling to recruit teachers because of low reimbursements from the state. As a result, many of them have had to close classrooms, limit enrollment and create waiting lists.

The downsizing has created a ripple effect in the economy as parents, unable to place their children in day care, stay at home instead of going to work.

"We could place 22,000 more Pennsylvania kids in day care if these programs were fully staffed," said Kimberly Early, senior director for public policy and advocacy for the Pennsylvania

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Miraida Martinez-Rodriguez, a teacher at Early Connections' City Center, 704 State St., builds a tower of blocks with students, from left: Edem Galley, 3, Ja'Ziyia Thompson-Dade, 2, and Kaycie Ruggerio, 3. DAVID BRUCE/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

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Volume 118 | No. 244
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