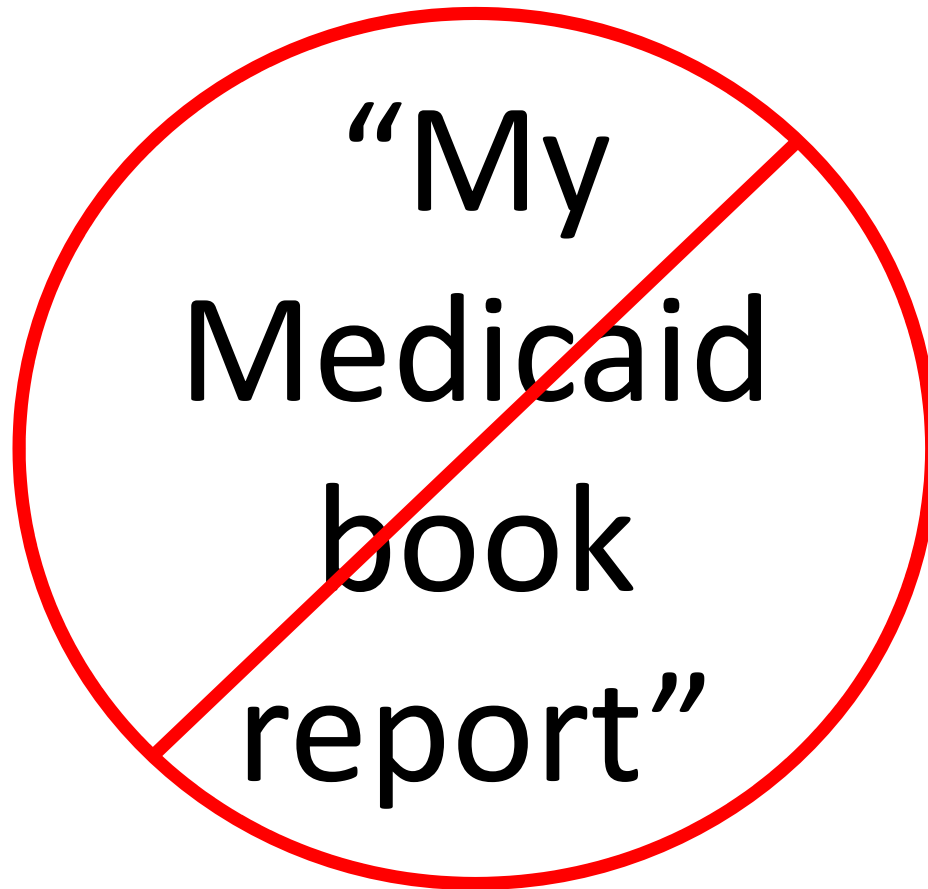


Where Medicaid Stands

Tony Leys
The Des Moines Register



“My
Medicaid
book
report”

Show who Medicaid expansion covers



- Working age adults making up to about \$16,400 per year.
- Without expansion, most poor adults don't qualify for Medicaid unless they're declared disabled or have minor children on the program.

Hospitals ❤️ Medicaid expansion

- Many hospitals in Medicaid expansion states have seen charity-care burdens plummet.
- Reporters can use readily available data to show readers how their local hospitals are faring.

ACA eases burdens on Iowa's hospitals

Since taking full effect in 2014, costs for charity care for uninsured have declined \$127M annually

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Eric Stimson says that if his cancer had struck when he was uninsured, it would have destroyed more than his voice box — it would have taken his dignity.

The Des Moines resident had gone more than two years without health insurance before regaining coverage with help from the Affordable Care Act in 2014. A few months later, he became desperately sick with throat cancer. Without his new coverage, he would have had to ask Iowa hospitals to shoulder most of the cost of his care, which has included 10 operations. Instead, his hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills were covered by an insurance policy, for which he had paid more than half the \$600 monthly premiums.

"I felt like I wasn't a charity case," he said.

Stimson is one of nearly 200,000 Iowans who gained insurance coverage under the law, also known as Obamacare. The law has eased burdens on Iowa's 118 community hospitals, which are



Eric Stimson

See ACA, Page 6A

Specific types of programs that benefit

- Many people with chronic mental illnesses or addiction issues qualify for the Medicaid expansion, because they struggle to hold steady jobs.
- The new money has given treatment programs a boost. What happens if it is phased back out?



Possible complications of block-grant system

- Medicaid programs already struggling to cover extremely expensive blockbuster drugs.
- What happens if feds cap states' Medicaid payments, and a new, pricey cure comes along?



Private Medicaid management

- 55 million Americans are enrolled in privately managed Medicaid.
- The transition can be rocky.
- Trend likely to accelerate under Trump administration, and companies could have looser federal reins.

Disabled Iowans say Medicaid firms **CUTTING** IN-HOME HELP



James Crowell, with Medicaid's Consumer Directed At-Home Care program, feeds Jane Campbell at his home in Fayetteville. Campbell used to be waited right away when Son, Tony Crowell, decided in 2015 to hire private companies to run Medicaid.

Companies overseeing privatized services say care 'meets the individual's needs,' is reflective of 'benefit levels set by the state'

TONY LEFF | IOWANOWS.COM

FORTY-NINE J.F., Jr. — Jane Crowell was standing by James Campbell's wheelchair, feeding him a barbecue-sauce sandwich when the phone rang in Campbell's kitchen earlier this month. The caller was a state official, responding to a complaint Campbell had made about a private Medicaid company that was trying to reduce the amount of time Crowell and others are paid to help him.

Crowell held the phone up to Campbell's ear and mouth as he explained that he needs extensive assistance because he is paralyzed from the neck down. Medicaid pays about \$20.50 per hour for aides to help him live in his home around 11 a.m. on working days. Their duties include cooking for him, dressing him, cleaning his home, running errands, giving him his medicine and emptying his urine bag. A national Medicaid management company, UnitedHealthcare, is trying to trim those services, Campbell told the official from the state's Long-Term Care Ombudsman's office.

"What I was getting equated out to like five hours a day, every day," he said the morning. "And they want to cut it back to a little over two hours a day. That's the decision they've made, and I'm opposing it."

Campbell, 64, knows others are also facing such cuts from the three private companies Iowa hired last year to manage the state's \$4 billion Medicaid system. He's one of nearly 7,000 Iowans with disabilities who use Medicaid's

See MEDICAID, Page 18A



Crowell said that, even before UnitedHealthcare threatened to cut his hours, she often struggled to get it to pay the wages she was owed.

"They had said nothing would change — that my benefits would stay the same. But I'm smarter than that."

JANE CAMPBELL
one of nearly 7,000 Iowans with disabilities who use Medicaid's Consumer Directed At-Home Care program