



<https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

Who are my local representatives



Your results:

Expand the following results and reveal the contact information for the elected officials at each level of government. Then, select their name to see how to contact them and their staff.

Federal officials represent you and your state in Washington, DC. +

State officials represent you in your state capital. +

Local officials represent you in your county or city. +



Local officials represent you in your county or city. —

County officials —

Lehigh County Executive, Phil Armstrong +

Lehigh County Controller, Mark Pinsley +

Lehigh County Clerk of Judicial Records, Michelle Graupner +

Lehigh County Coroner, Daniel A. Buglio +

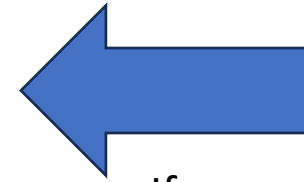
Lehigh County Sheriff, Joseph N. Hanna +

Lehigh County District Attorney, Gavin P. Holihan +

Lehigh County Commissioner, April Riddick +

Lehigh County Commissioner, Dan Hartzell +

Lehigh County Commissioner, Jon Irons +



If you see my name
you're In the right spot

Your Wallet vs. Medicaid Cuts: The Fight You Didn't See Coming

Mark Pinsley : MarkPinsley@LehighCounty.org

Dwayne Heisler : heisler@pennpolicy.org



A large green circle is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the text.

Controllers Office v DOGE

DOGE has a cool sounding name,
Department of Government Efficiency

The Controllers' office may not sound as cool, but we are AUDITORS focused on real Fraud, Waste, and Abuse.

This is the first town hall in a series where we will talk about risks to the county and efficiencies that my office believes we can achieve.



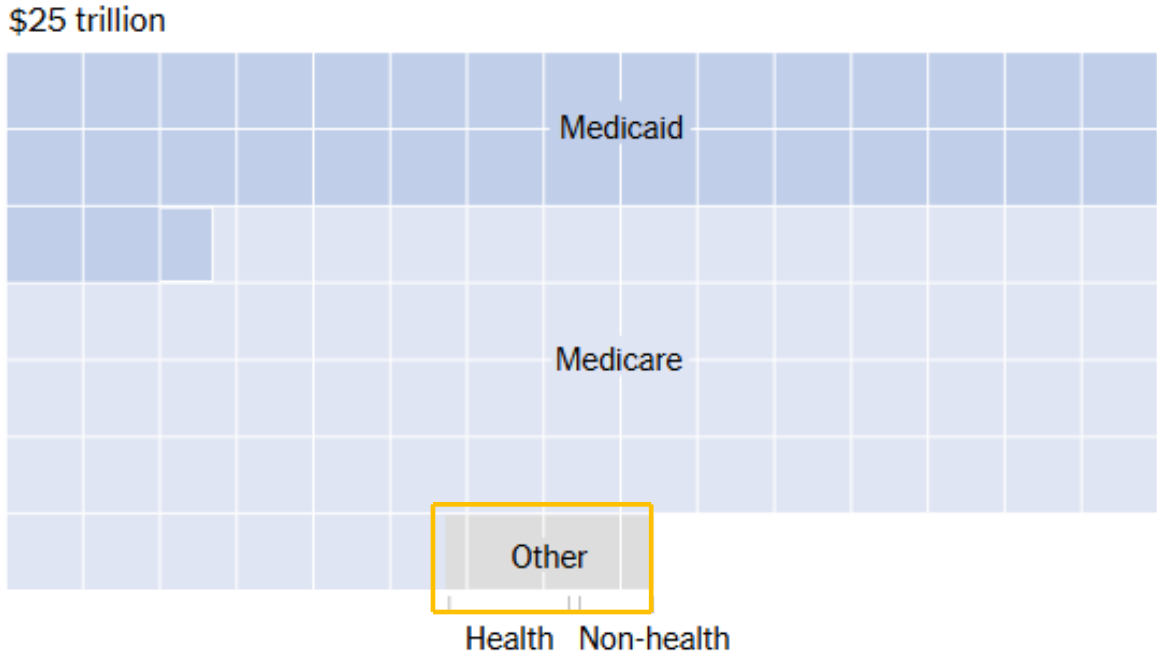
Disclaimer

- President Trump has said that no cuts will be made to Medicaid other than fraud, waste, and abuse.
- According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the House Energy & Commerce Committee has been tasked with finding budget cuts, and 93% of the mandatory spending under their jurisdiction is Medicaid.



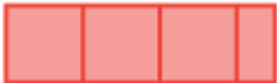
Disclaimer

Spending overseen by the House Committee On Energy and Commerce



Cuts required

\$880 billion

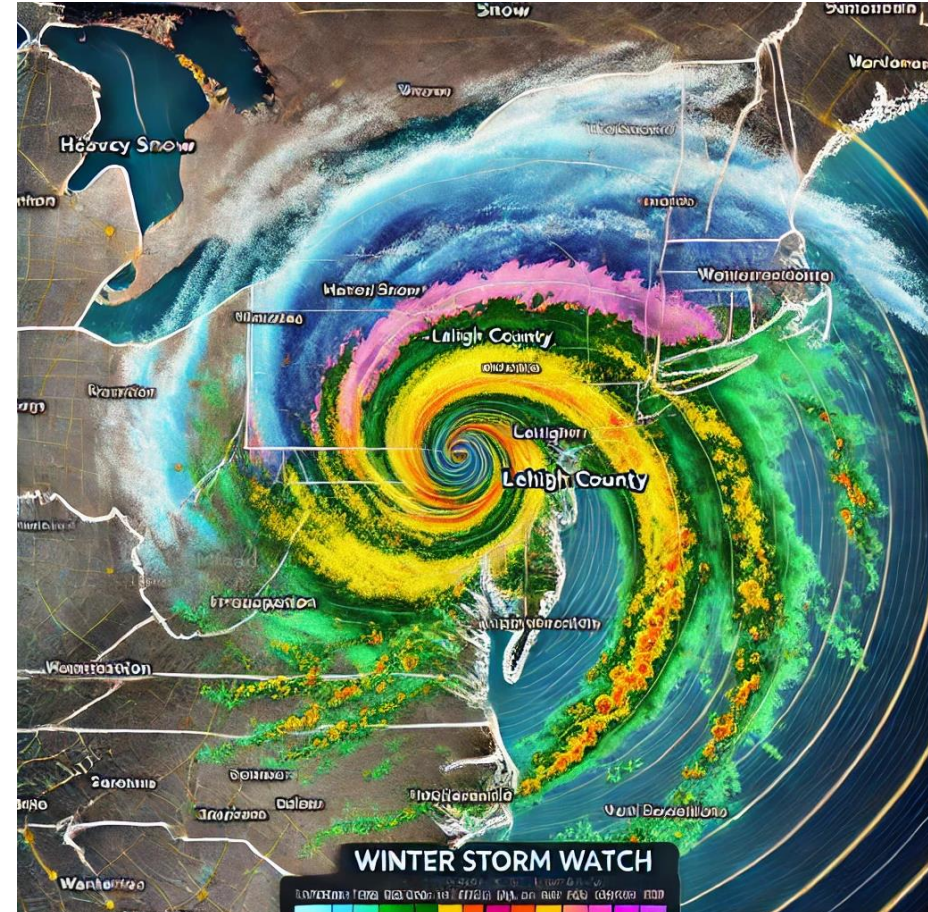


Each square represents \$250 billion in 10-year gross mandatory spending. - Source: Analysis of federal budget data by Richard Kogan, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities - By The New York Times

Winter storm warning - Is This Even a Real Crisis?

The 'Crisis' That's Not a Crisis (Until It Is)

- Prepare by buying your bread, milk and toilet paper
- This Medicaid cut may never happen, just like a snow storm.
- So the question isn't whether this will happen—the question is whether we're ready if it does

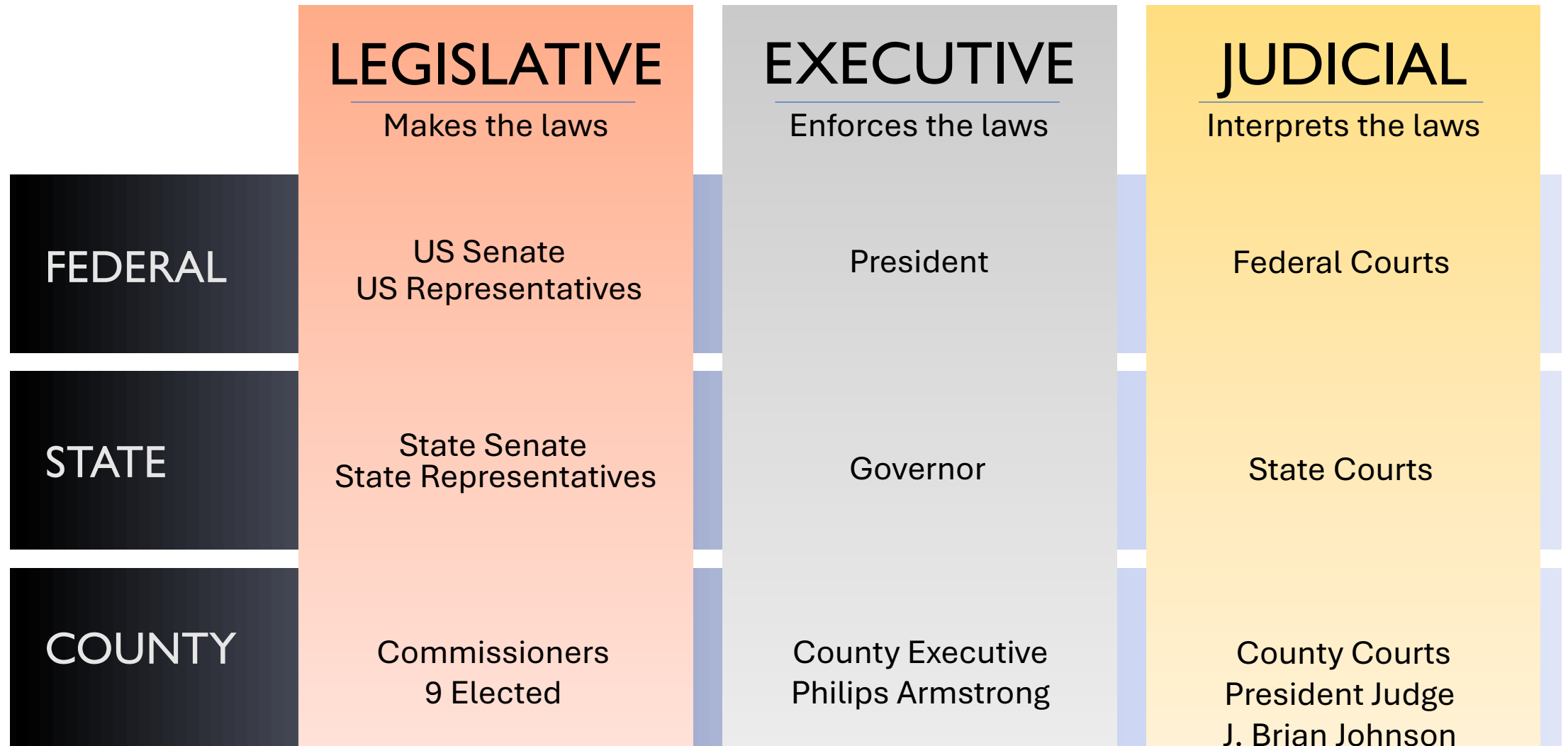




Civics 101

A Quick refresher

BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT



Meet elected officials from Lehigh County – Please put your hands up

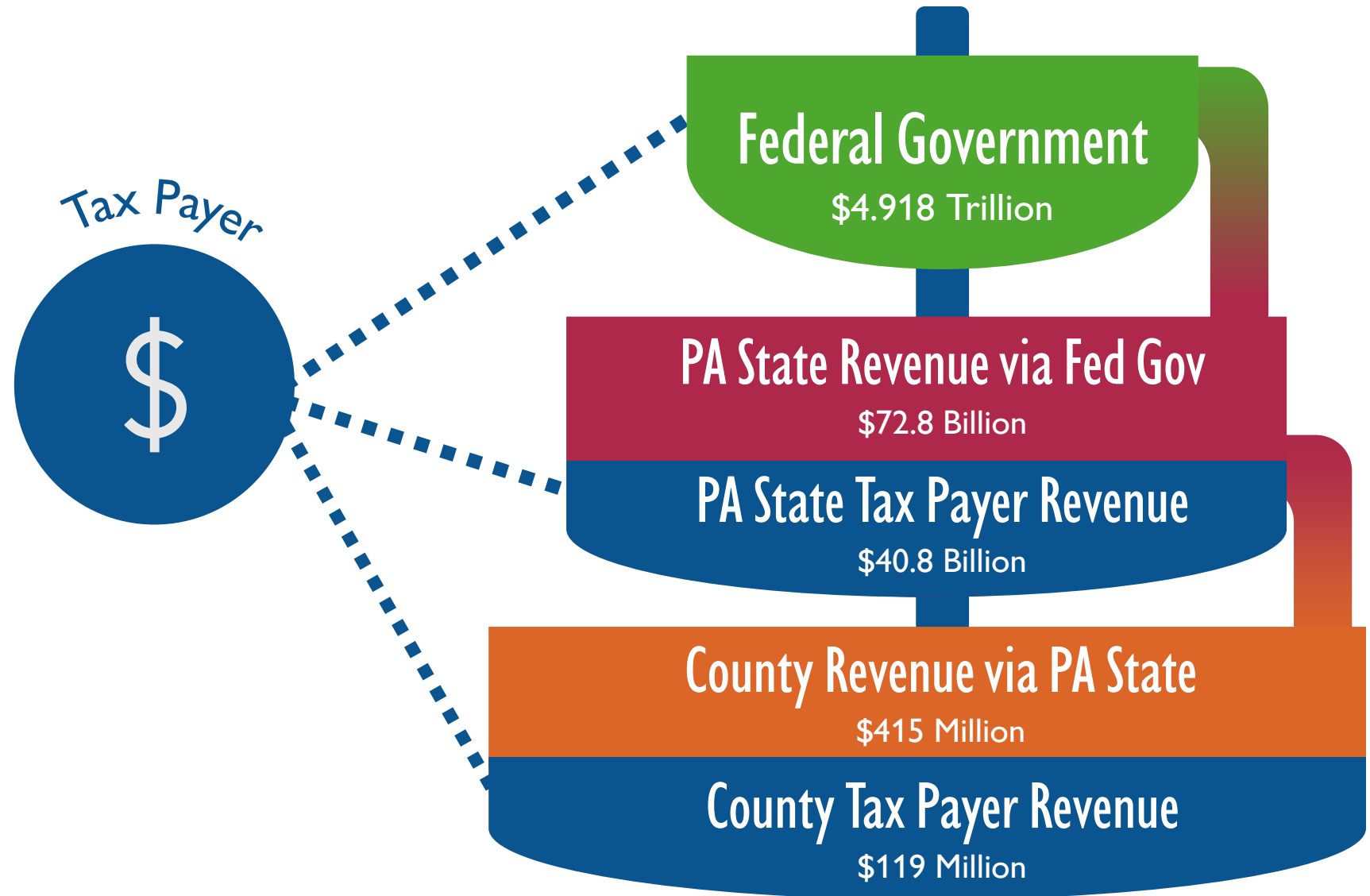
Federal

- What level you represent
- Your name
- Your title
- Your district

State

County

How money flows from Washington to Lehigh County



Medicare v Medicaid

Medicare → E for **Elderly** (65+).

Medicaid → D for
Disadvantaged (low-income and
those who rely on assistance).

Today our discussions focus on
Medicaid

Medicaid
vs
Medicaid
Expansion

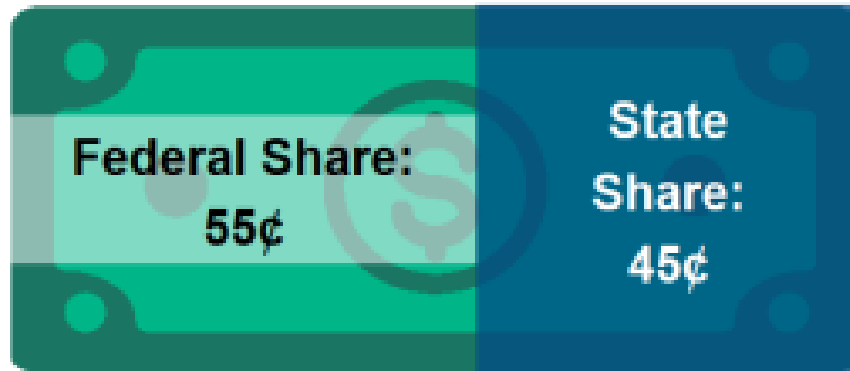
Medicaid = You must be
poor

Medicaid Expansion =
You must still be poor
but a little less poor

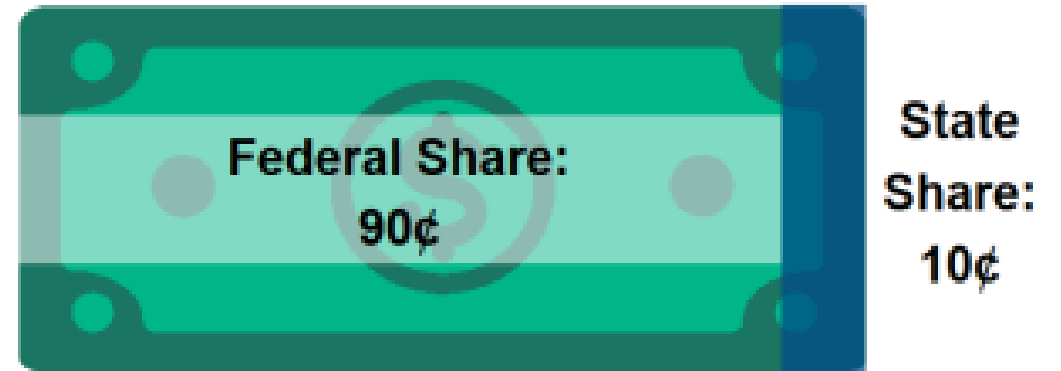
Does Cutting Medicaid Save Money

- Maybe depending on the kind of community we want to live in
- Only if we reduce services and kick people off of the plan
- Or if we reduce other services

In PA, the federal government pays **55%** of the cost of traditional Medicaid.



The federal government pays **90%** of the cost of the Medicaid expansion.



Medicaid Expansion in Lehigh County

225,824 number of people 18-65

23,837 number on Medicaid Expansion

~10.5% of population

Congratulation, You Owe \$93,000

This happened in Pennsylvania - 2012

- Meet John Pitta. One day, he gets a \$93,000 skilled nursing home bill for his mom's care.
- John never signed anything. He wasn't involved in her finances.
- And yet, he owes more than most people make in a year. How did we get here?
- Oh, you're going to love this.



You're One Bad Day Away from Inheriting Your Parents' Medical Debt

Yes it is a real law!

23 Pa.C.S. § 4603 – Law



States with Filial Responsibility Laws

Alaska	Louisiana	Ohio
Arkansas	Maryland	Oregon
California	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
Connecticut	Mississippi	Rhode Island
Delaware	Montana	South Dakota
Georgia	Nevada	Tennessee
Idaho	New Hampshire	Utah
Indiana	New Jersey	Vermont
Iowa	North Carolina	Virginia

- **Fun fact:** In Pennsylvania, you can be legally responsible for your **parents'** nursing home bills! And no, this isn't a medieval law—we still do this.
- In PA, adult children can be legally responsible for a parent's unpaid nursing home bills.
- But you can also be responsible for your adult children

Who do you talk to about Filial Responsibility?

State officials represent you in your state capital. —
Governor of Pennsylvania, Josh Shapiro +
Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania, Austin Davis +
PA State Auditor General, Timothy L. DeFoor +
PA State Treasurer, Stacy Garrity +
PA State Attorney General, David W. Sunday, Jr. +
PA State Senator, Jarrett Coleman +
PA State Representative, Michael H. Schlossberg +

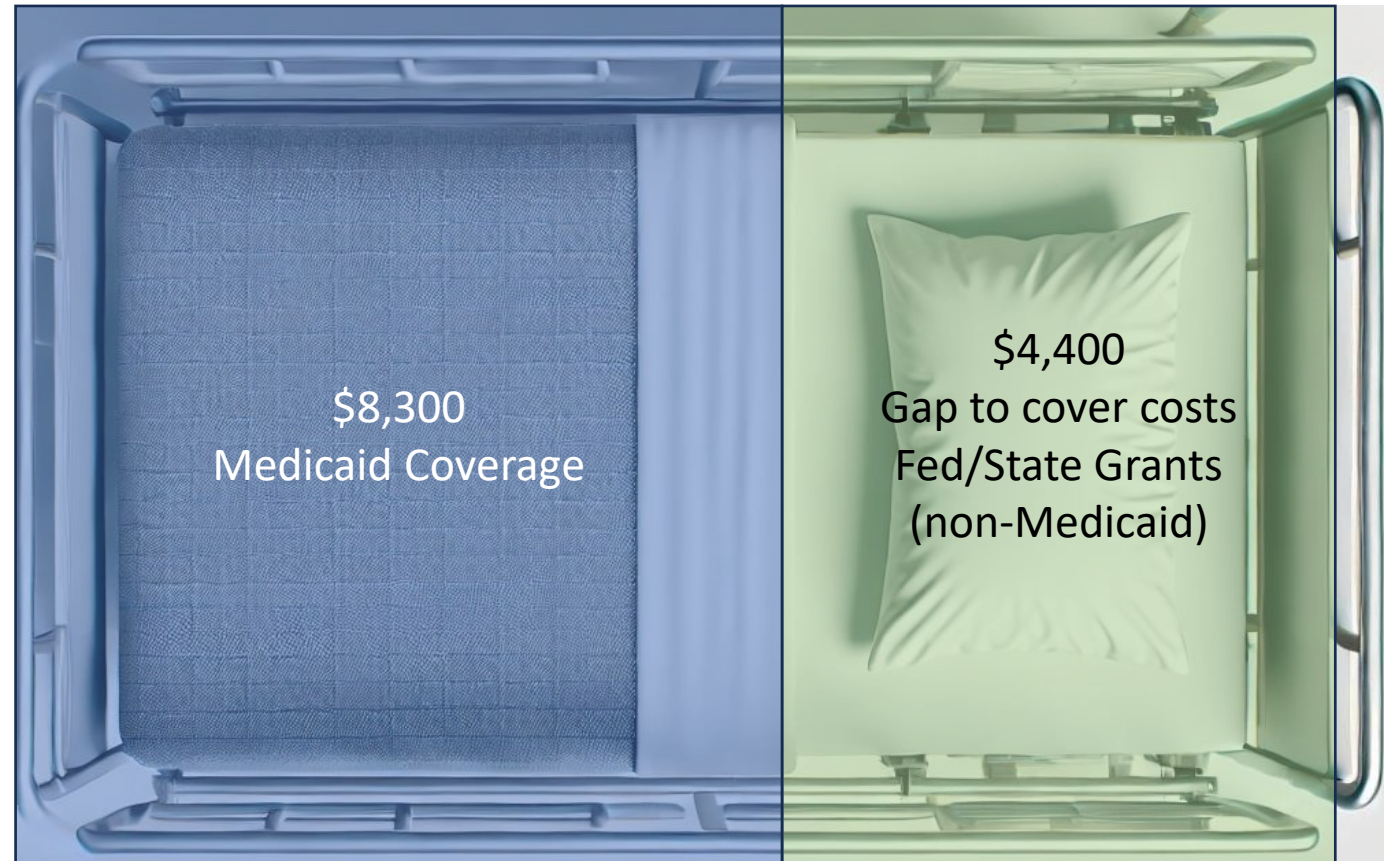
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Lehigh County Commissioner, Jon Irons +
Lehigh County Commissioner, Sheila Alvarado +
Lehigh County Commissioner, Ron W. Beitler +

Medicaid Pays... But Not Enough

The estimated monthly cost to the county for a bed, assuming 100% occupancy, is:

\$12,700.

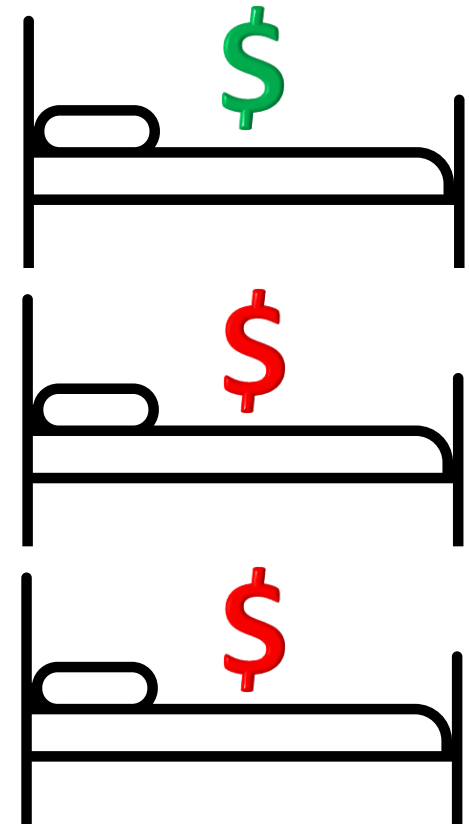
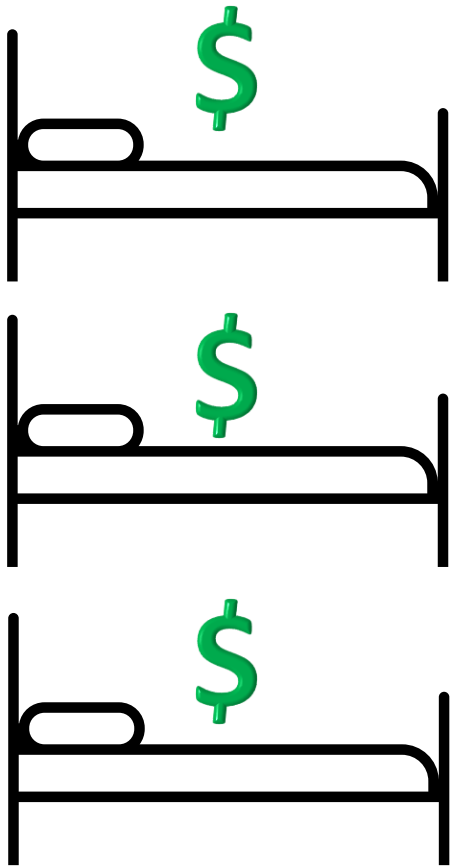
How do other Nursing homes handle this?



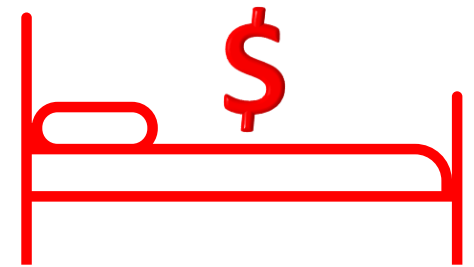
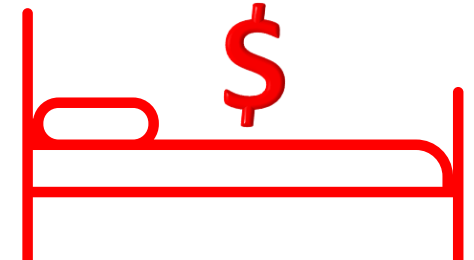
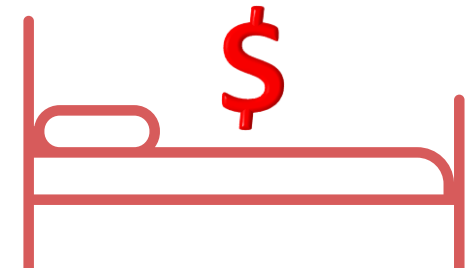
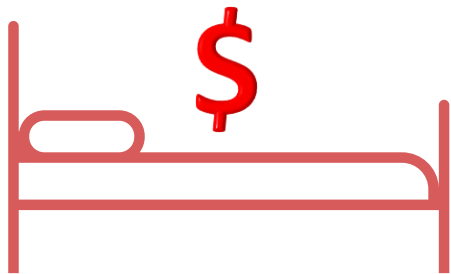
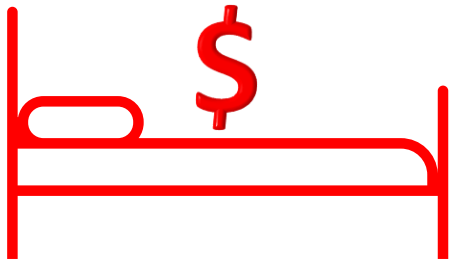
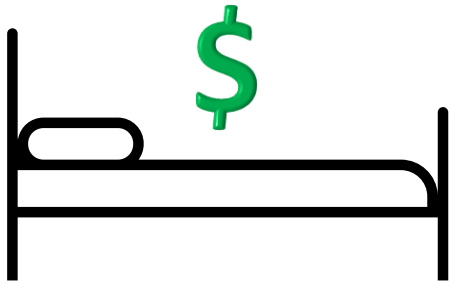
How other nursing homes handle it: Daily Reimbursement rate

County	Facility Name	Licensed Beds	Medicare Reimbursement Rate	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate
LEHIGH	ADVANCED HEALTH CARE OF HANOVER	46	650	.
LEHIGH	BETHLEHEM NORTH SKILLED NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER	217	542	208
LEHIGH	BETHLEHEM SOUTH SKILLED NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER	227	650	255
LEHIGH	CEDAR CREST POST ACUTE	166	677	232
LEHIGH	CEDARBROOK SENIOR CARE AND REHABILITATION	670	595	272
LEHIGH	COMPLETE CARE AT LEHIGH LLC	128	645	244
LEHIGH	FELLOWSHIP MANOR	121	513	277
LEHIGH	GOOD SHEPHERD HOME- BETHLEHEM	60	550	460
LEHIGH	GOOD SHEPHERD HOME RAKER CENTER	99	550	460
LEHIGH	HOLY FAMILY MANOR	208	658	279
LEHIGH	JEWEL HEALTHCARE AND REHABILITATION CENTER	146	650	260
LEHIGH	LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL TRANSITIONAL SKILLED UNIT	52	611	.
LEHIGH	LUTHER CREST NURSING FACILITY	60	586	300
LEHIGH	MOSSER NURSING HOME	60	618	292
LEHIGH	PHOEBE ALLENTOWN HEALTH CARE CENTER	395	603	262
LEHIGH	RIVERTON REHABILITATION AND HEALTHCARE CENTER	111	663	280
LEHIGH	ST.LUKE'S HOSPITAL SACRED HEART CAMPUS TRANSITIONAL CARE FAC	22	673	.
		2,788	614	292

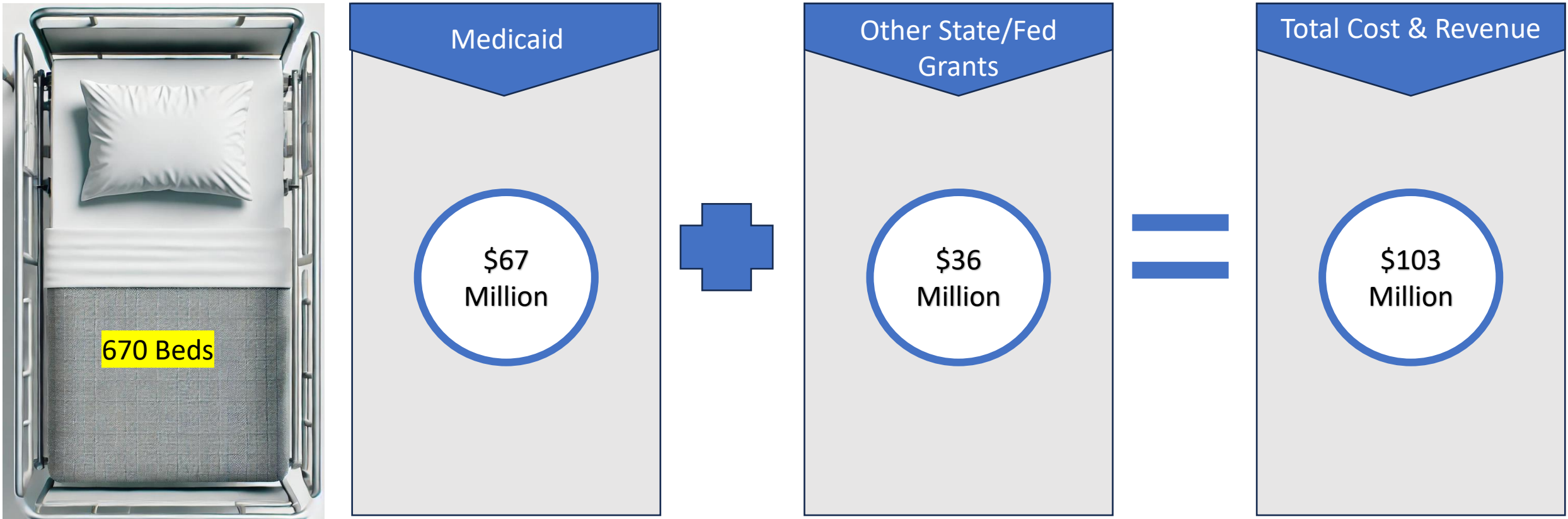
if you've got more beds making money, you can handle a few that are bleeding cash



But flip that ratio, and suddenly, congratulations—you're the proud owner of a financial disaster zone



Beds Aren't Free: Medicaid Pays Some, We Need More



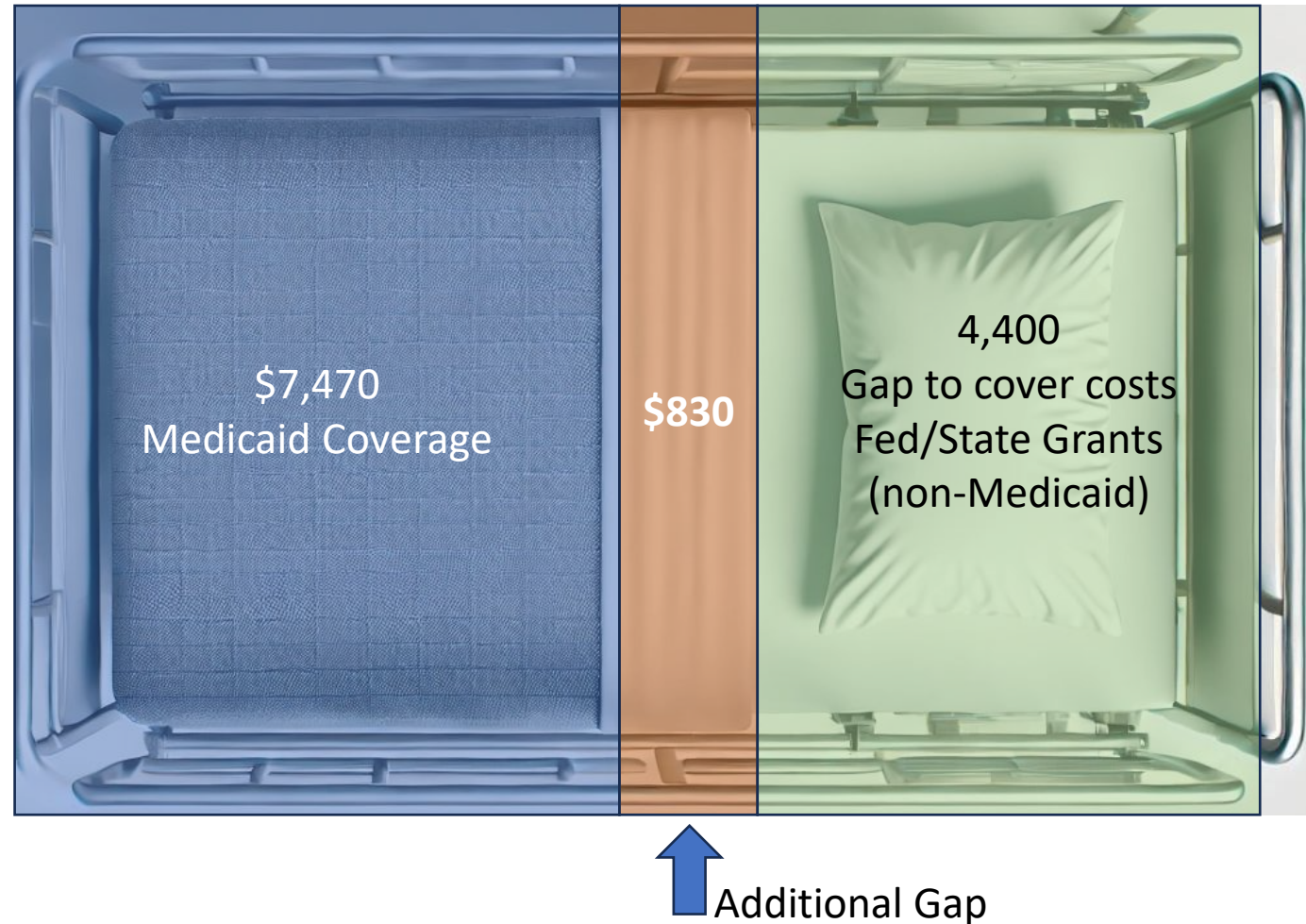
What If We Just... Cut Medicaid By 10%?

Short Answer: Everything Breaks

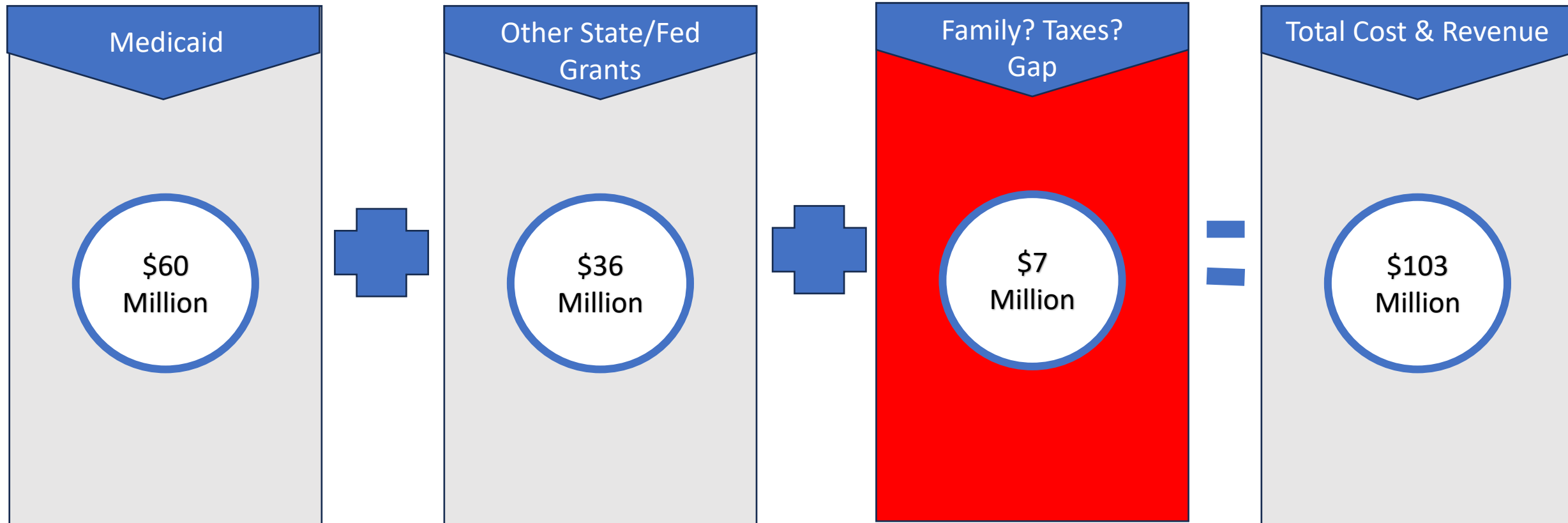
Long Answer: Still that but...

If there is a 10% reduction in Medicaid, that means that there will be an \$830 gap in funding

That assumes that there are no new grants on the other side
And that there are no cuts to the other side.



Birds Eye View: Who Covers the Gap? (Hint: Probably You)



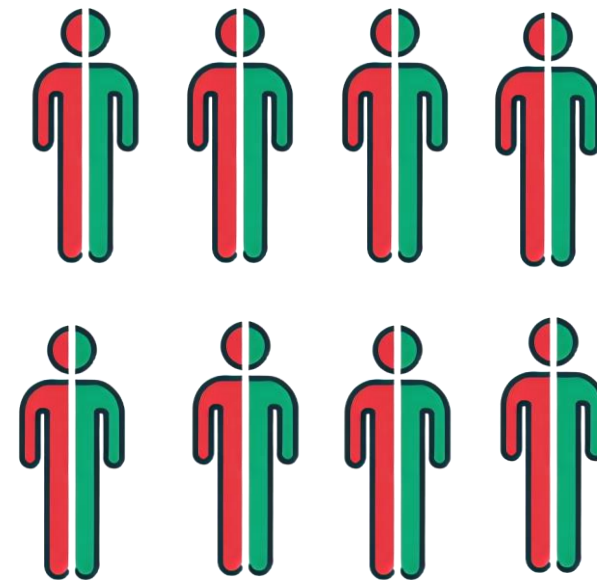
Mental Health & Disabilities:

The Medicaid Safety Net
Everyone Cares About—
But Somehow Still
Ignores

Lehigh County spent
\$101 million in 2024
on mental health &
disability services.

100% Medicaid

How do you cut 10% from Medicaid for Mental Health & Disabilities



Medicaid Funding Changes

- Block Grants States get a single lump sum to cover Medicaid expenses regardless of enrollment or costs of care with minor increases each year
- Per Capita Caps States get a fixed amount of money per person enrolled in Medicaid that may or may not cover the cost of care with minor increases each year.

The 3 Ways Medicaid Cuts Affect You, Even If You're Not on It

Raise Taxes, Cut Services, or Just Ignore the Problem?

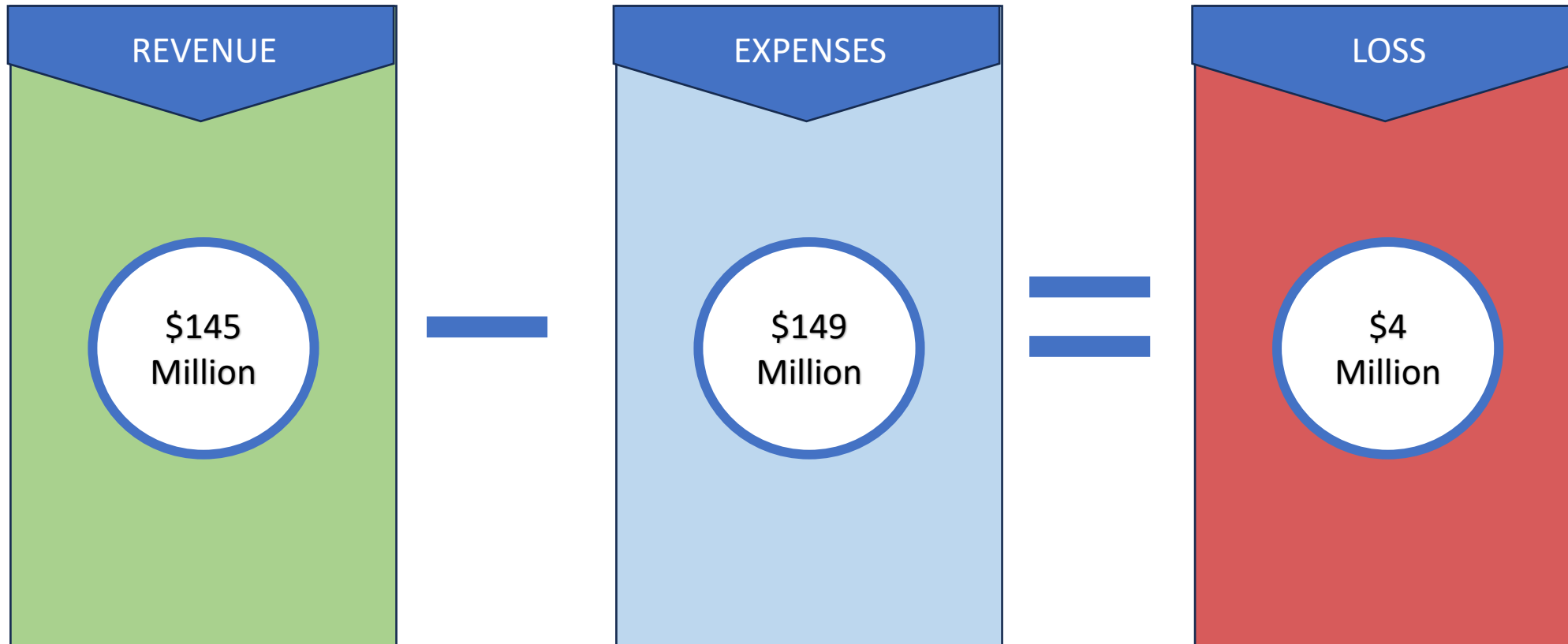
1. Higher taxes – (Congrats!) States or Counties need to make up for lost Medicaid money.
2. Fewer county services – To cover some costs, we need to reduce other costs
3. Increased Hospital Costs & Insurance Premiums – When Medicaid is cut, more uninsured people go to emergency rooms for care, leaving hospitals with unpaid bills. Hospitals then pass those costs onto insured patients, causing higher insurance premiums and medical bills for everyone

Without Medicaid, the ER Becomes a Nightmare

- Emergency care is the most expensive form of healthcare.
- When people lose Medicaid, they don't stop needing medical care.
- They just wait until their condition is critical and go to the ER. ER visits are astronomically more expensive than preventive care.
- Taxpayers still foot the bill.



Lehigh County's Property Tax Budget: Somehow Both Too Much and Not Enough



The Property Tax Time Bomb: Countdown has begun!

Local Property Tax (117M)

- 83.4M - Law and Order
- 7.3M - Quality of Life
- 6.2M - Debt Service
- 5.9M - Human Services
- 1.9M - Capital Project
- 1.6M - Other Elected Officials
- 0M - Nursing home
- 11.1M - All other functions

Federal/State Grants (457M)

- Law and Order
- Quality of Life
- Debt Service
- 227M - Human Services
- Capital Project
- Other Elected Officials
- 86M - Nursing home
- All other functions

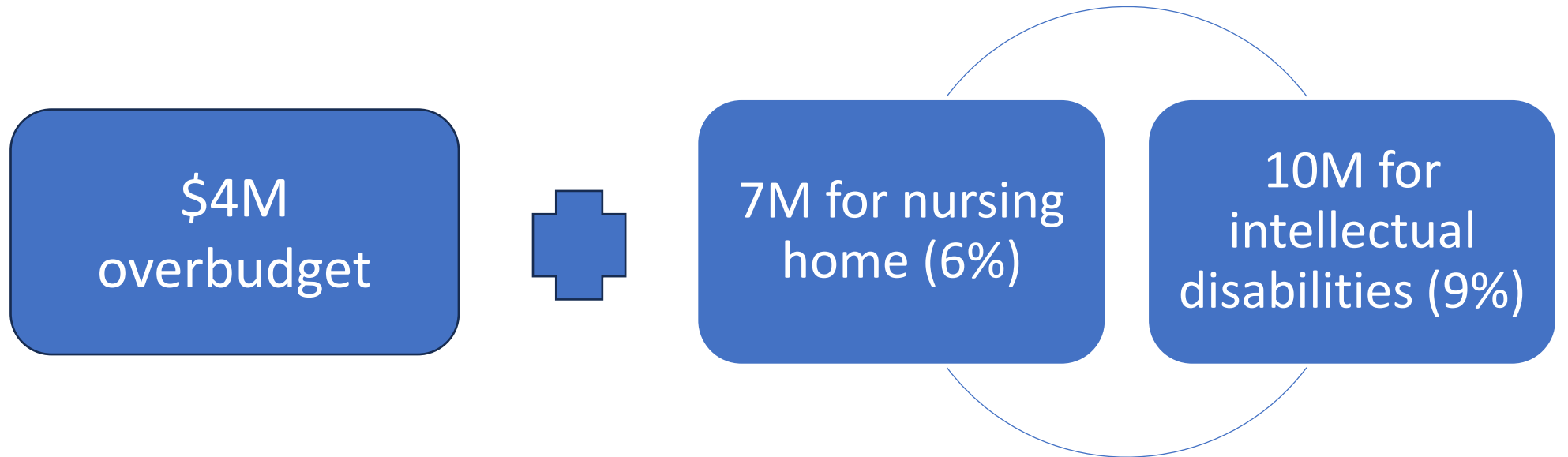
Total Budget (2023) \$574 M

18% increase in County taxes to stand still

Money needed to balance budget

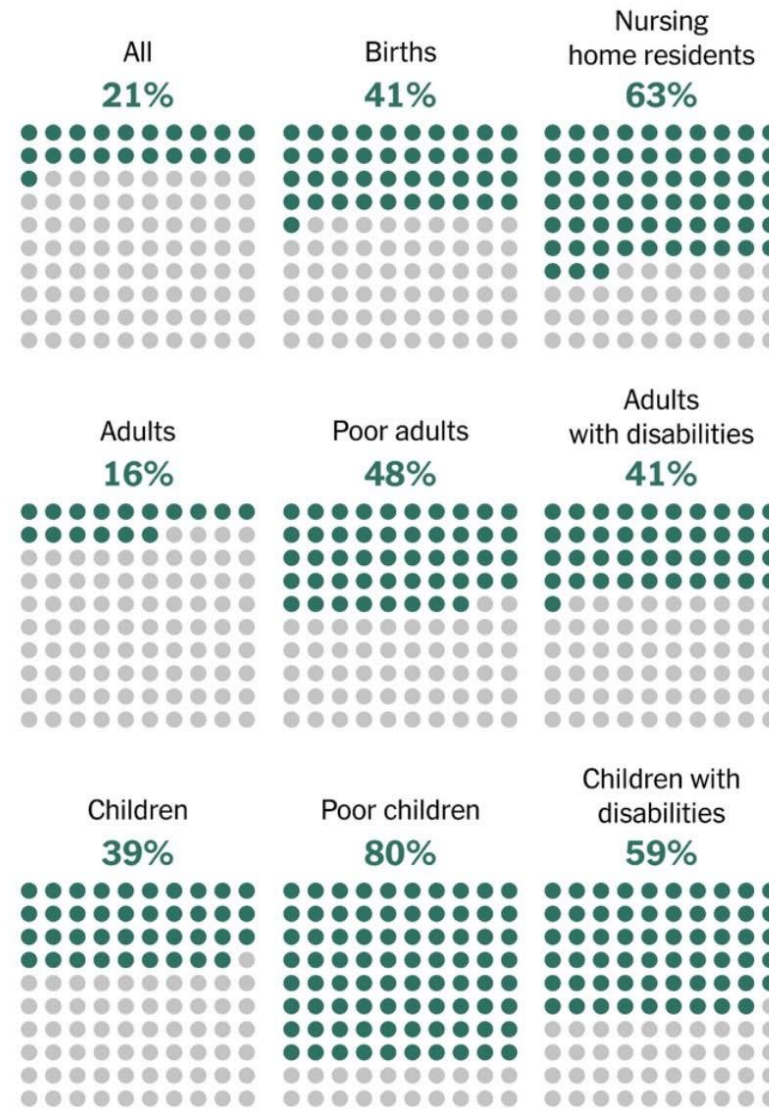
- \$4M (3%)

Money for Medicaid cuts



Who relies on Medicaid

Percentage of Americans covered by Medicaid



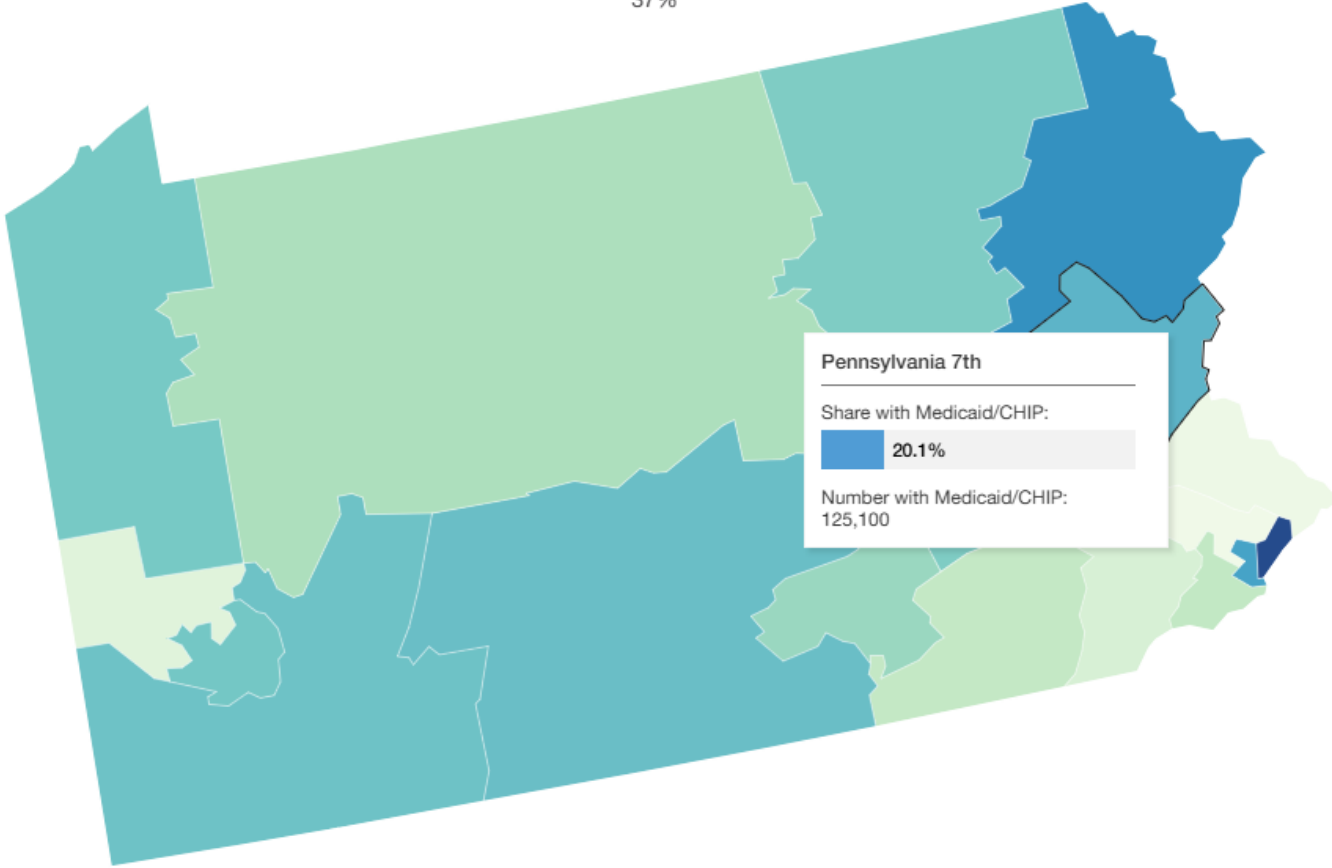
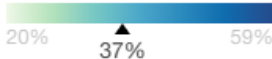
Percentages for adults are for ages 19 to 64. | Source: KFF | By The New York Times

Your
Neighbors
rely on
Medicaid

Medicaid/CHIP Coverage by Congressional District, 2023

Hover over districts for more information. Use tabs below to view additional maps:

Total (Under Age 65) Children (Under Age 19) Adults (Ages 19-64)




Closure of Nursing Homes in New York

- Since 2021, over a dozen nursing homes in New York have closed, primarily due to challenges in retaining staff, exacerbated by stagnant Medicaid reimbursement rates that haven't been adjusted in more than a decade. This trend has left many vulnerable residents without adequate care options, particularly affecting nonprofit facilities.



Connecticut's Community Health Centers Scaling Back Dental Services

- Several community health centers in Connecticut have reduced or eliminated dental services due to insufficient Medicaid reimbursement rates. For instance, the Community Health & Wellness Center incurred a \$350,000 loss on major dental procedures in 2024, leading them to discontinue dental care services. Similarly, StayWell Health Center ceased performing costly treatments like crowns and root canals. These reductions have significantly impacted Medicaid patients' access to essential dental care.



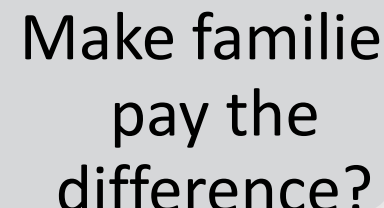
The Big Question – If Medicaid Funding is Cut, What Do We Do?



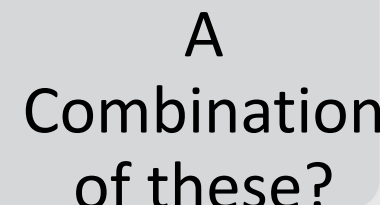
Raise taxes?



Cut programs?



Make families pay the difference?



A Combination of these?

Take Away

What kind of community do we want to live in? One where we support each other and build a better future for all—or one where only the wealthiest and most powerful thrive while working families are left behind?

Finding the right balance between personal responsibility and mutual support is key to building a thriving and resilient community.

- Things to do
 1. Ryan McKenzie, let him know how you feel
 2. State Reps, talk to them about Filial modifying or removing the laws
 3. County Commissioners – ask them what their intentions are
 4. This year is the time for county elections. Let everyone weigh their choice for County Executive and County Commissioner not with passion just for party, but with knowledge and reason. For people who neglect their duty at the ballot box will find their fate decided by those who show up.

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Medicaid - Part 2

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