



Talking Points: Federal Activity (Updated: 3/16/2025)

Intended audience

The talking points below are meant for use by staff who work with Medicaid and FoodShare members, as well as parties interested in those programs. This includes personnel at DHS, income maintenance (IM) and Tribal agencies, the ForwardHealth call centers, and any other entities that may need to relay high-level information related to concerns about Medicaid and FoodShare because of actions currently being discussed at the federal level.

Background and instructions (not for sharing/distribution)

Activity around federal funding for Medicaid is receiving a lot of attention in the media. The information here is to assist with talking to members who contact us with concerns.

The US Congress is in the process of preparing a budget for the federal fiscal year that runs from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. On February 26, the US House of Representatives passed a budget resolution, which sets the priorities for what they want to do. Part of this resolution stated an intention to cut \$880 billion dollars over ten years from the part of the budget that includes Medicaid. Members have already begun calling to ask what this means for their benefits. **No budget has been passed.** The budget resolution tells people what the majority in the House wants to do at a high level, but no specifics are available at this time.

This activity is happening in Washington, DC, in the US Congress. Our programs at the state level do not have a role in the federal budget process. In response to questions from members, it is important to clarify what we *know* as clearly as possible, speaking directly to the issues of primary concern. Staff, call centers, and other messengers should use the language in this document as much as possible, as repetition of the same wording reinforces messaging. Staff should avoid speculating or sharing any information they may have heard but is not official.

Talking points

- On Wednesday, February 26, the federal House of Representatives passed a budget resolution that called for a large amount of money to be cut in the next federal budget, likely from Medicaid.
 - A budget resolution is not a budget.
 - A budget resolution sets the goals for what Congress is going to try to do as they work on creating and passing an actual federal budget.
 - The budget that this relates to will be in effect from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. The Senate and the House of Representatives in Washington, DC are beginning to work on creating and passing that federal budget now.
- While the Wisconsin Department of Health Services runs our state's Medicaid programs, we do not have a role in the federal budget process.
 - We do not have any information about what services or programs could be affected or cut in a new federal budget.
 - To find out about what is being proposed for Medicaid in the federal budget or to provide feedback, you can reach out to your elected representatives who work in Washington, DC.
- If you are a current member of Medicaid, the services that you are able to receive **have not changed at this time** and you should get the health care you need.
- We post news about Wisconsin's health care programs on the DHS website. That page is at dhs.wi.gov/medicaid/news.htm or you find it by searching "Medicaid News Wisconsin" in your internet browser.