



We solve problems through policy change.

For nearly 30 years, New Futures has provided nonpartisan, evidence-based solutions to New Hampshire's health challenges. We work to build bridges among policymakers and secure the passage of laws that improve access to child care, children's mental health services, affordable health care, and healthy aging supports, among other needed resources. Through policy change, we can ensure that social service programs and statewide systems work for everyone — especially the populations they are designed to serve.







New Futures works to improve the health and well-being of all Granite Staters through public policy change and civic empowerment.

Vision

New Futures envisions communities where public policies allow all New Hampshire residents equitable opportunities to live, work, and thrive.

Values

[HOW WE BUILD TRUST]

- Integrity
- Expertise
- Partnership
- Inclusion
- Respect

Letter from The President

Dear Friends.

This year brought significant change at the federal level — shifts that will have deep and lasting impacts here in New Hampshire. As key pandemic-era policies that expanded access to health care, nutrition assistance, and other safety net programs expire, many individuals and families are at risk of losing critical supports. We know the consequences of these changes will be felt across every level of our health and social systems.

That's why our work together matters now more than ever. At New Futures, we are committed to preventing health care coverage losses and protecting essential services. We're building coalitions, advancing thoughtful policy, and amplifying the voices of those most affected by these changes to ensure Granite Staters continue to have access to the care and support they need.

We also know the most difficult challenges lie ahead, but we have been here before. For nearly three decades, New Futures has weathered political tides. And over this time we have developed the expertise, strategic insight, and trusted relationships needed to meet this moment. Our team will continue to be there — advocating for smart, evidence-informed solutions and ensuring that the lived experiences of New Hampshire families are at the center of every policy conversation.

This report reflects what we've accomplished together this past year — and where we need to go from here. With your continued support, we can expand our impact and respond boldly to every challenge ahead.

Thank you for helping us to carry this critical work forward.

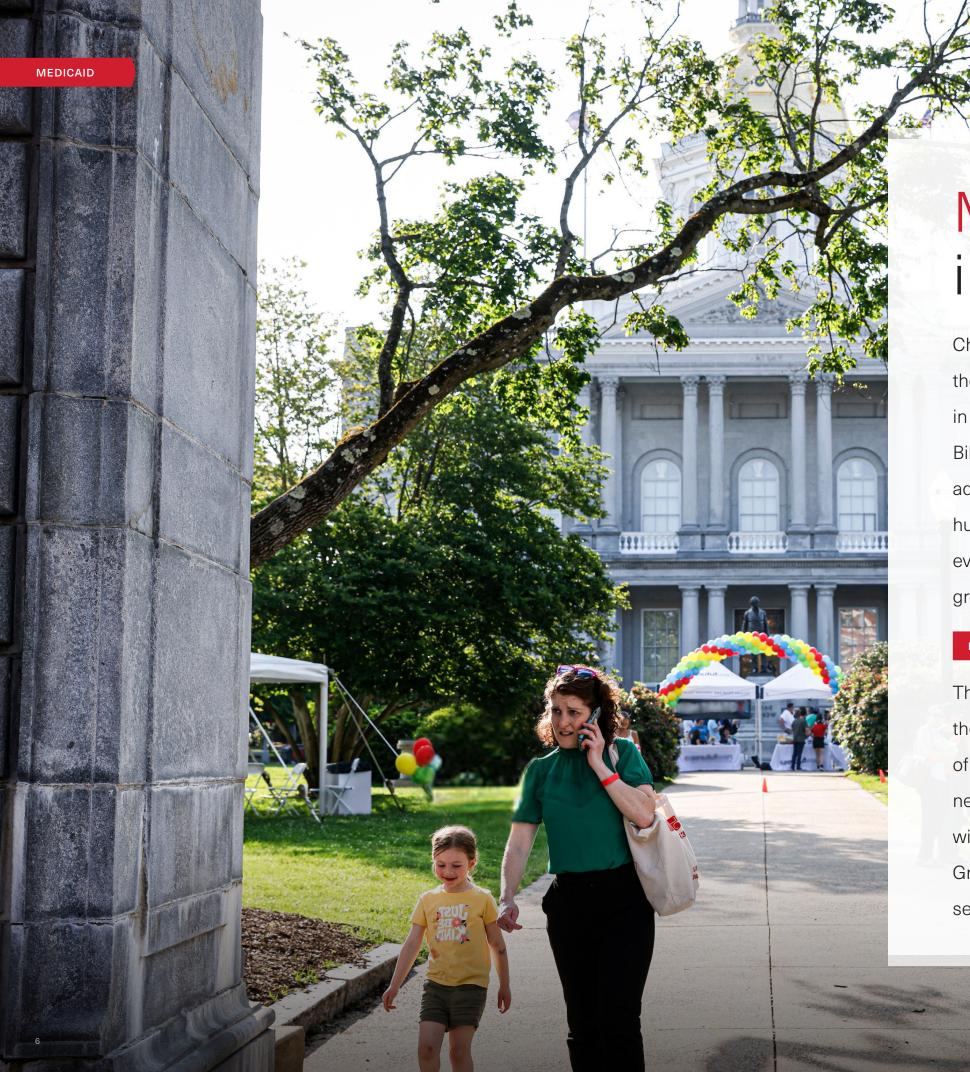
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President



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Medicaid Matters in New Hampshire.

Changes made in Congress this year to federal Medicaid programs will bring the most significant shifts to health care access New Hampshire has seen in decades. On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," which includes new costs for Medicaid recipients, increased administrative burdens, and other barriers that will strain working families and hurt the state's health care system. These far-reaching policies will impact everyone in the Granite State — from children, who make up the largest group of Medicaid users, to older adults.

IMPACTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

This report will highlight the potential impacts of these new changes on the health and well-being of New Hampshire residents. As President Trump's new Medicaid policies take effect, New Futures will monitor their impact and advocate to ensure all Granite Staters have access to essential health care services.

GET INVOLVED



NHNeedsMedicaid.com to find the latest updates and learn how you can get involved.







Moms Unite

Ten years ago, at her 13-week ultrasound, Jessica Crowley discovered that her unborn baby had a potential health complication that required additional testing. She spent the next 10 days worrying while awaiting the results.

Months later, Jessica gave birth to a daughter who needed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) care. Jessica's husband had to return to work, leaving her to sit alone at her daughter's bedside for five weeks, scared and under intense stress.

Throughout these challenging days, dozens of doctors and nurses cycled through to evaluate the baby, but not a single health professional assessed Jessica's well-being.

"Sure, the NICU nurses asked how I was, but I was not their patient," Jessica shared with lawmakers during powerful testimony in February. "I told them I was fine. But I was not fine."

Despite research showing that mothers of NICU babies are 70 percent more likely to develop postpartum depression, she was never once screened for mental health concerns. Although Jessica herself has a degree in psychology, she was not able to recognize her own signs of depression.

"All I cared about was my baby surviving another day. Nothing else mattered," she added.

To Alison Palmer, a nurse practitioner specializing in OBGYN and reproductive mental health, Jessica's experience is unfortunately far too common.

Alison shared that while 40 percent of postpartum women experience depression or anxiety, many don't seek treatment from their own doctors as they prioritize their baby's care over their own. The baby's pediatrician may identify signs of maternal depression or anxiety, but since they are not the mother's provider, they are unable to provide treatment or refer the mother to care — until now.

MATERNAL HEALTH STATISTICS

40%

of postpartum women experience depression or anxiety

62%

of pregnancy-related deaths in NH are caused by substance misuse and co-occurring mental health complications

11

maternity wards in the state have closed in the past two decades

Thanks to the tireless advocacy of Jessica, Alison, New Futures, and partners, Senate Bill 246, also known as Momnibus 2.0, passed into law this year as part of the state budget. The bill establishes access to maternal mental health screenings for new mothers in pediatrician offices and creates a consult line for providers to connect moms with mental health professionals.

Today, Jessica is the mother of a healthy, feisty 10-year-old daughter. Sharing her story has led to systemic change that will make an impact on the mental health of New Hampshire moms.

MEDICAID AND EARLY CHILDHOOD

In New Hampshire, Medicaid covers one out of every five births. In 2023, the state increased postpartum coverage of mothers enrolled in Medicaid from 60 days to one year. This coverage is essential to both moms and babies as depression and anxiety are the most common complications in pregnancy and postpartum, affecting one in five mothers.







Bridging the Gap

As a young child, Cheryl Guerin's son experienced anxiety, first running away from school, and eventually struggling to attend class at all. Soon after, he was unable to leave his house, then his room, and finally his bed. He and their whole family were in crisis.

For Cheryl, trying to find the right services for her son was nearly impossible. Their family endured the traumas of emergency department boarding and the challenges of hospitalization at Hampstead Hospital, which holds the state's only inpatient beds for children with mental health conditions.

After her son's condition worsened, the family was referred to FAST (Families and Systems Together) Forward Wraparound services.

Since participating in FAST Forward, Cheryl's family's situation has greatly improved. Her son is progressing in his recovery with the support he needs to thrive. Cheryl now serves as Vice President on the board of NAMI New Hampshire, utilizing her story and experience to make a difference for families like hers.

"Looking back, participation in FAST Forward was one of the key turning points in my son's recovery and in our family's ability to move out of crisis," Cheryl said during a press conference in June. "It's been four years since we participated in the FAST Forward program, and I'm very proud of my son, who now has a 3.6 cumulative GPA and is only a few credits away from his high school diploma."

For more than five years, New Futures has worked closely with NAMI New Hampshire and other partner organizations to ensure all children in New Hampshire have access to these critical, wholefamily wraparound supports. However, despite years of negotiations with health insurance carriers, these services remain uncovered by private plans — leaving Medicaid coverage as the only option to access FAST Forward services and deepening gaps in care for privately insured children with mental health needs.

This year, New Futures and NAMI New Hampshire championed Senate Bill 128, which would have established a private-public fund for covering FAST Forward services, requiring private insurers to contribute to the fund so all families in the state, even those with private insurance, can access these highly individualized care plans before their child's condition worsens to crisis level.

Final efforts to include SB 128 in the 2026-27 state budget fell short, despite bipartisan support for

New Futures and NAMI New Hampshire remain committed to championing solutions to this critical problem, and ensuring more families like Cheryl's can access the care they need in the years ahead.

MEDICAID AND CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Medicaid serves as the largest payer for children's behavioral health services in New Hampshire, and the only one covering wraparound care.

FAST FORWARD STATISTICS

85

FAST Forward referrals each month over fiscal year 2024

total youth served through FAST Forward since 2015







Protecting Medicaid

For over 187,000 Granite Staters, Medicaid provides essential health care coverage from preventative care checkups and mental health services to cancer treatments, at-home nursing care, and more. This past year, New Futures helped bring together more than 80 statewide and community organizations as part of the NH Medicaid Matters Coalition, which worked tirelessly to protect this critical safety net program from proposed cuts at both the state and federal levels.

Working alongside coalition partners, New Futures gathered dozens of personal stories from New Hampshire residents whose lives have been transformed by Medicaid coverage. These powerful narratives became the foundation for the Coalition's advocacy efforts, which included organizing two press conferences, three roundtable discussions, two webinars, and a dedicated storytelling event that amplified the voices of those who depend on Medicaid.

"Medicaid gave me a foundation to rebuild my life," shared Kristina Amyot, a Rochester resident, during a press conference at the Legislative Office Building. Her story illustrates Medicaid's vital role in substance use treatment and recovery — allowing her to receive six months of treatment and to focus on both her recovery and her child's health. "It ensured that I had access to therapy and critical medical care without worrying about treatment expenses. Medicaid allows families like mine to survive, to recover, and to contribute to our communities."

Kristina now receives health insurance through her work, no longer needing Medicaid — an experience shared by tens of thousands of Granite Staters who use the program to get well, return to work, and continue supporting their families.

MEDICAID STATISTICS

• **187,000**+

NH residents are covered by Medicaid

48%

of all NH Medicaid recipients are kids

64%

of nursing home residents are covered by Medicaid

The Coalition celebrated a significant victory by defeating a proposed three percent cut to Medicaid reimbursement rates in the 2026-27 state budget — a reduction that would have forced health care providers to close their doors and negatively impacted access to primary care, preventive services, behavioral health, and emergency care across the state.

However, there were setbacks. Namely, the state budget included Medicaid expansion work requirements and increased monthly premiums and cost-sharing for both adults and children covered under Medicaid expansion and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Despite the mixed results, one thing stands clear: New Futures and NH Medicaid Matters elevated Granite State voices like Kristina's, ensuring that policymakers heard directly from those whose lives depend on Medicaid. The fight to protect Medicaid continues, strengthened by the stories and experiences of our communities and the power of our collective voice.

MEDICAID AND HEALTH CARE ACCESS

An estimated 46,000 Granite Staters are projected to lose their health insurance coverage due to federal changes to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act beginning in 2026. This represents the most substantial threat to health care access in decades.







Treatment Saves Lives

Finding evidence-based treatment shouldn't be so hard.

Yet in New Hampshire, as more and more treatment providers are closing their doors, hundreds of residents are struggling to find the help they need to address substance use disorder.

The Farnum Center, one of Manchester's largest treatment centers, closed its inpatient program in July. The program primarily served Medicaid patients and uninsured individuals, but with Medicaid reimbursement rates failing to cover the true cost of care, it couldn't keep up with the growing gap.

These closures signal a troubling trend: New Hampshire is sliding backward on treatment access. In 2016, the state ranked 49th in the country for the ability to find care when needed. While the state has made progress since then, current closures and funding challenges risk putting Granite Staters among those with the hardest time finding treatment nationwide.

"I have seen firsthand what best helps people go from a place of self-destruction and chaos to living successful lives free from substances," Dan Wargo, Director of TLC Recovery Programs in Claremont, said earlier this year during a legislative hearing. "I've learned that one of the greatest gifts we can offer those transitioning from misuse to recovery is immediate access to treatment services."

For many New Hampshire residents, Medicaid expansion has made all the difference. The program provides health insurance coverage to roughly 60,000 low-wage Granite Staters and helps nearly 7,500 access substance use treatment services each year. "This coverage allows us to place people in residential treatment often on the same day they come to us," Wargo added.

While Medicaid expansion has extended coverage to more residents than ever before, state and federal changes coming to the program will put tens of thousands of individuals at risk of losing their coverage. Despite exemptions for certain individuals, work

requirements and added monthly premiums approved in the 2026-27 state budget will threaten access to care and further strain treatment providers, many of which are already struggling.

Going forward, New Hampshire needs to protect Medicaid expansion and the essential care it provides. New Futures will be there every step of the way, working to ensure those who need help can access life-saving services when they need them most.

MEDICAID AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

Medicaid serves as New Hampshire's largest funding source for substance use treatment, providing these services to one out of every three adults under Medicaid expansion. Federal Medicaid changes threaten to undermine New Hampshire's Medicaid expansion program and with it, over a decade of progress in addressing the state's substance misuse crisis.

MEDICAID EXPANSION STATISTICS

·58,000+

NH residents are covered by Medicaid expansion

1 in 3

of these adults access substance use treatment or mental health care

+#1

Medicaid is the #1 single source of funding for substance use treatment in NH







Vaccine Access for Kids

When Dr. Amy Watson first learned about House Bill 524 on social media, she knew she had to act.

As a pediatrician and owner of Breakthrough Direct Care in Concord, Dr. Watson understood that dismantling the New Hampshire Vaccine Association — the state's system for providing no-cost immunizations to children — would directly harm her patients and families across the state.

What started with sharing social media posts about the bill's negative implications soon evolved into testifying at the State House. "I was initially intimidated," Dr. Watson shared. "But I have always aimed to advocate for what is best for my patients and all children in New Hampshire."

Dr. Watson's advocacy, which helped to sideline the bill for the 2025 legislative session, reflects a broader effort to protect New Hampshire's public health system. The 2025 session brought numerous attacks on the state's long-standing immunization schedule. Along with HB 524, lawmakers considered policies that would remove vaccination requirements for children entering child care and schools — threatening the foundation of the state's disease prevention efforts.

The role of public health is to prevent diseases and protect entire communities. While health care treats a person who is already sick, public health aims to prevent that person from getting sick or injured in the first place.

When more people in a community are vaccinated, it helps reduce the spread of preventable diseases, protecting everyone. The New Hampshire Vaccine Association, which Dr. Watson advocated to preserve, works to improve access to childhood vaccines while keeping health care costs down.

VACCINE STATISTICS

NH was the first state in the nation to create a universal vaccine purchasing program the NH Vaccine Association

·>92%

of NH kids in child care had vaccine coverage in the 2023-24 school year

New Futures and advocates across the state defeated most of these bills through a remarkable community response. When lawmakers considered HB 524, over 400 New Futures advocates emailed lawmakers about the dangers of the legislation. Dozens of public health professionals and advocates testified at public hearings to educate lawmakers about the importance of vaccine access for New Hampshire families.

State advocacy efforts are further complicated by shifts in federal policy, such as the changes to the make-up of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a national body that helps to determine which vaccines children and adults receive. Despite these obstacles, New Futures and advocates like Dr. Watson will continue working to ensure Granite Staters have every opportunity to start healthy and stay healthy.



MEDICAID AND PUBLIC HEALTH

One in four Granite State kids is covered by Medicaid. When kids lose insurance, they often skip regular doctor visits and routine vaccines, which play an important role in preventative health care. Medicaid also helps fund the Vaccines for Kids program, which provides free immunizations to all families that want them.







Marie's Story

On October 24, 2023, Marie Kiely received the 3 a.m. call that every parent fears most: her only child, Ben, 44, was in a local hospital ICU and had suffered cardiac arrest. He never regained consciousness, and her beautiful son died just a few hours later.

Ben's death was determined to result from alcohol use disorder (AUD), a shock to everyone who knew him. His family had never seen him drink, and they never imagined that someone as young and healthy as Ben could die from alcohol.

Ben's story is not unlike the millions of people in the United States suffering from AUD. Approximately 178,000 people die from alcohol-related causes every year in the U.S., making alcohol one of the leading preventable causes of death.

Although Ben sought help for his AUD, he did not receive evidence-based treatment. The condition is highly treatable, yet fewer than five percent of individuals in the U.S. with AUD receive any treatment at all.

In 2023, New Hampshire generated \$756.7 million in revenue at state-owned liquor stores. When the state profits from selling addictive substances, it has a moral and fiscal responsibility to offset those harms with resources for prevention, treatment, and recovery. Studies show that every dollar spent on mental health and substance use prevention yields \$5.60 in savings by mitigating costs related to preventable diseases. That is why state

AUD STATISTICS

·1 in 10

Americans ages 12+ have AUD

· 1 in 4

Granite Staters in federally funded substance use treatment programs were admitted for alcohol use

· 7

new cases of alcohol-associated cancers every day in NH

law directs five percent of gross profits of alcohol sales toward the Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Treatment Fund, commonly known as the Alcohol Fund. Today, more than 100 organizations across New Hampshire receive funding for prevention, treatment, and recovery work through this fund.

For over 20 years, New Futures has advocated with one clear message to policymakers: use the Alcohol Fund for its intended purpose of supporting prevention, treatment, and recovery programs at the full five percent level required by law. Unfortunately, the Alcohol Fund has been historically underfunded or used for other purposes, except for the fiscal year 2024-25 budget cycle, when it was fully funded at \$11 million per year.

The final 2026-27 state budget includes a cut of about \$1.2 million per year to the Alcohol Fund. Even more concerning, the budget shifts the funding source to the general fund, which is made up of taxpayer dollars, rather than drawing from the state-owned liquor store profits. This puts the Alcohol Fund in jeopardy for future budget years.

MEDICAID AND REGULATION OF ADDICTIVE PRODUCTS

As federal funding for Medicaid decreases and Granite Staters lose coverage, New Hampshire will face increasing pressure to fill critical health care funding gaps. This threatens the Alcohol Fund, which could become a target for redirected resources, jeopardizing substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery programs around the state.







Caring for Caregivers

When Karen Hatch's husband, Joe, was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease at age 56, their world changed overnight.

Within three years, many of the activities that defined Joe — his metalworking, snowmobiling, and his career — were stripped away. Karen became both his full-time caregiver and the sole earner for their family, as she also cared for their adult daughter, who experiences disabilities requiring continuous support.

"If my husband and daughter did not live with me, they would each require one-to-one residential placement — at enormous cost to our state," Karen told lawmakers during a public hearing. Instead, like thousands of family caregivers across New Hampshire, she provides around-the-clock care at home, which saves the state thousands of dollars annually, but requires significant sacrifices.

Karen's main source of support for Joe is New Hampshire's Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Caregiver Respite program, which supports just four hours of help per week. These precious hours allow Karen to tackle mounting household tasks, attend medical appointments, maintain her physical health, or simply catch her breath.

An estimated 168,000 Granite State caregivers provide 157 million hours of care annually — work valued at \$2.8 billion. The importance of family caregivers cannot be overstated: without them, the state's Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) system would collapse.

While caregiving is often rewarding, it comes with many challenges, including scheduling conflicts, increased stress, social isolation, and burnout. That's why New Futures championed legislation to increase support for caregivers.

CAREGIVER STATISTICS

168,000 family caregivers in NH

• 157 million hours of care provided

\$2.8 billion

worth of care provided

43%

of NH caregivers reported they need respite services

Thanks to New Futures, partner organizations, and advocates like Karen and Joe, the 2026-27 state budget includes an additional \$100,000 in funding for the ADRD Caregiver Respite program. This investment isn't just compassionate — it's fiscal common sense. Enabling family caregivers to continue their essential work prevents the need for far more expensive services.

For families like Karen's, this funding will make a difference in sustaining their ability to care for their loved ones at home.

MEDICAID AND HEALTHY AGING

Nearly one in ten family caregivers rely on Medicaid for their own health care coverage. Medicaid also helps some caregivers get paid through Home- and Community-Based Services. New Hampshire's new work requirements will threaten both caregivers' coverage and the care they provide, hurting the state's entire Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) system.





Impact Report

OUR 2025 ADVOCATES:

3,400+

3,800+

290+

39

STORIES COLLECTED

OP-EDS AND LTES SUPPORTED

200+

16,300+

Financial Summary

OUR IMPACT:

In a challenging budget year,

\$1.8 Million

Was used to help secure:

\$199 Million

HAMPSHIRE'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND INDIVIDUALS

Every dollar invested in New Futures returned \$111 in funding for critical community programs.

Our Approach

Cultivating Civic Leadership

Providing individuals with the knowledge, skills, resources, and opportunities they need to take control of their story and create positive public policy change.

Educating Communities

Supplying communities with information and resources that help them understand complex issues, make informed decisions, and take action to improve the policies impacting their lives.





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