



**New Issue Brief Looks at Medicaid and Dementia**  
*Shows Vital Role for Millions of Americans*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: December 18, 2017

Contact: Rachel Maisler

Telephone: 202-813-5063

Email: [rmaisler@leadcoalition.org](mailto:rmaisler@leadcoalition.org)

**Washington DC** – At a time of high-profile fiscal and health policy debates in Washington and in state capitals, a leading coalition today released a new [Issue Brief showing the vital role of Medicaid](#) in providing essential medical and support services for individuals and families impacted by Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

The new report by the LEAD Coalition – [Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer’s Disease](#) – notes that Medicaid, jointly funded by states and the federal government, provides medical care and services to nearly 25 percent of the more than 5.5 million Americans living with Alzheimer’s or another form of dementia. Each state administers its own program, subject to broad federal requirements, resulting in vast differences in eligibility and services across the nation. The new Issue Brief notes that people living with dementia often require and count on Medicaid for services that Medicare and private insurance do not cover. This includes long-term care, transportation, and respite for caregivers, making it indispensable for many individuals with significant health care needs.

The LEAD Coalition has five main recommendations:

- Maintain the current Medicaid funding system to ensure that the program is able to meet the needs of an expanding aging population and growing number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.
- Do not impose Medicaid funding limits or per capita caps and do not restructure Medicaid into a block grant program for states.
- Continue to assist states to “rebalance” their Medicaid programs to encourage greater utilization of home and community-based services and reduce premature institutionalization.
- Increase options for individuals and families to self-direct their home and community-based services (HCBS) to better meet their needs.
- Enhance support for family caregivers within Medicaid, including assessment of caregiver needs and access to evidence-based family support programs.

-continued-

“Medicaid is crucial to the health and safety of millions of Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. Policymakers must reject per capita caps, block grants and outright funding reduction schemes that would undermine Medicaid and threaten essential care,” said Ian Kremer, the LEAD Coalition’s Executive Director.

Read the LEAD Coalition Medicaid and Dementia Issue Brief <http://bit.ly/MedicaidandDementia>.

###

**About the LEAD Coalition**

*[Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer’s Disease](#) (LEAD Coalition) is a diverse and growing national coalition of more than 90 member organizations committed to overcoming Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. The coalition works collaboratively to focus the nation’s attention on accelerating transformational progress in: (1) care and support to enrich the quality of life of people with dementia and their caregivers; (2) detection and diagnosis; and (3) research leading to prevention, effective treatment, and eventual cures.*