

Medicaid in 2025

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, Division of Medical Services
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Overview of Arkansas Medicaid



Medicaid Stats:

- Cover **1 in 3 Arkansans** of all ages and approximately **1 in 2 children**.
- Cover over **50% of all births**.
- Cover **80% of behavioral health services**.

- ❖ **Arkansas is an expansion state.** We are the only state that purchases private insurance for this population.
- ❖ We have a very small managed care program.
- ❖ We do not have 12 months post-partum coverage.
- ❖ All pregnant women in Medicaid get **full Medicaid benefits**.
- ❖ We were awarded the **Transforming Maternal Health Grant** in 2025.



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Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies

1. DHS has already implemented presumptive eligibility and global unbundling.
 - Presumptive Eligibility began June 1, 2025.
 - Total number made presumptively eligible (as of November 26, 2025):

June	July	August	September	October	November	Total
342	603	851	935	924	783	4,438

 - Global Unbundling began July 1, 2025
2. The following is under review and soon to begin promulgation:
 - Remote monitoring
 - Doula Coverage
 - Lactation Specialists
3. CHW policy is still being written.

[^]Separate Legislation (Act 627)

Transforming Maternal Health Grant

- 1) We are currently laying the groundwork to begin making PROVIDER INFRASTRUCTURE PAYMENTS in 2027 (Model Year 3).

Payments	Model Years	Supported Activities	Distributing Entity	Eligible Payees
Provider Infrastructure Payments	3-5 (2027-2029)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Patient safety initiatives and maternal care assessments.2. Quality measure reporting3. Data integration and other data driven activities4. Team-based care5. Connections to address health related social needs and behavioral health	Arkansas Hospital Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivering providers (OB/GYN, FamOB, CNM)• Hospitals• FQHC/RHC• Doulas• CHWs

- 2) The Infrastructure payments are designed to help providers prepare for the VALUE BASED PAYMENT MODEL. CMS is proposing to use an Episodes of Care model for participating providers, we are still learning what this will look like.

Maternal Life360



Craighead County

St. Bernards Medical Center Pregnancy Clinic and Parents as Teachers, Jonesboro Urban Renewal and Housing (JURHA) – 4334 E Highland Drive, Suite B, Jonesboro, AR 72402
1-870-207-0421 or email kntucker@sbrmc.org

Independence County

White River Health System – Pioneer Parent HUB- Community Connection Center 490 E College Suite 104 Batesville, AR 72501
1-870-793-0627 or email cmartin@gobsd1.org

Pulaski and Saline County

Baptist Health Medical Center – Little Rock
Call (501) 202-4099 or email mihow@baptist-health.org

Pulaski and Faulkner County

Baptist Health Medical Center – North Little Rock
Call (501) 202-4099 or email mihow@baptist-health.org

Life360 Homes have served **114 women** as of August 1, 2025.

- Mercy NWA has received Startup funding and is going through Readiness.
- UAMS is close to starting readiness and will be serving women Statewide (In a phased approach).

Expansion of provider types will hopefully grow the program in 2027.



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2025 Session

Arkansas Medicaid is working to implement many Acts from the 2025 Session.

Highlights include:

- Multiple bills that impact dental rates and services, including Act 1025
- The Physician Assistants as PCPs bill (Act 482)
- Rate increase for RSV vaccine for children (Act 634)
- Increase in appeals time frame to 65 days (Act 515)
- Expanding coverage of physical therapy (Act 103)

ARHOME Renewal

- Act 774 authorizes the renewal of the ARHOME Waiver from January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2031
- In addition to Work and Community Engagement Requirements (also required by H.R. 1), the new ARHOME waiver will:
 1. Implement the 6-month renewal period
 2. Expand Life360 Homes
 3. Increase the MLR to 85%
 4. Treat ACSR as Premiums
 5. Require QHPs to remit pharmacy rebates
 6. Continue and enhance quality improvement measures

Questions??



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