

# MEDICAID

**Seth Gold**

*Executive Director – Bureau of Health  
Services Financing (Medicaid)*

# MISSION & ROLE



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## What is Medicaid?

- Medicaid is **health coverage** for **low to moderate income individuals**.
- **Covered groups** include low-income adults, children, pregnant women, the elderly, the blind, and individuals with disabilities.

## How does Medicaid differ from Medicare?

- **Medicaid is a joint state and federal program** that provides health coverage to **lower income people meeting certain eligibility criteria**.
- **Medicare is a federal-only program** that provides health coverage to people **65 or older** or with a **severe disability**, no matter the income.

## What is Healthy Louisiana?

- **Healthy Louisiana** is how we refer to our **managed care program**.
- **Managed care** is the way most of Louisiana's Medicaid recipients access health care services.



# MISSION & ROLE

## MEDICAID IMPACT AT A GLANCE

As of December 2025, Louisiana Medicaid enrollment is  
**1,511,488 individuals**

Approximately 34% of the state's population



909,537

53%



~35,000

64%



675,073

58%

# MISSION & ROLE

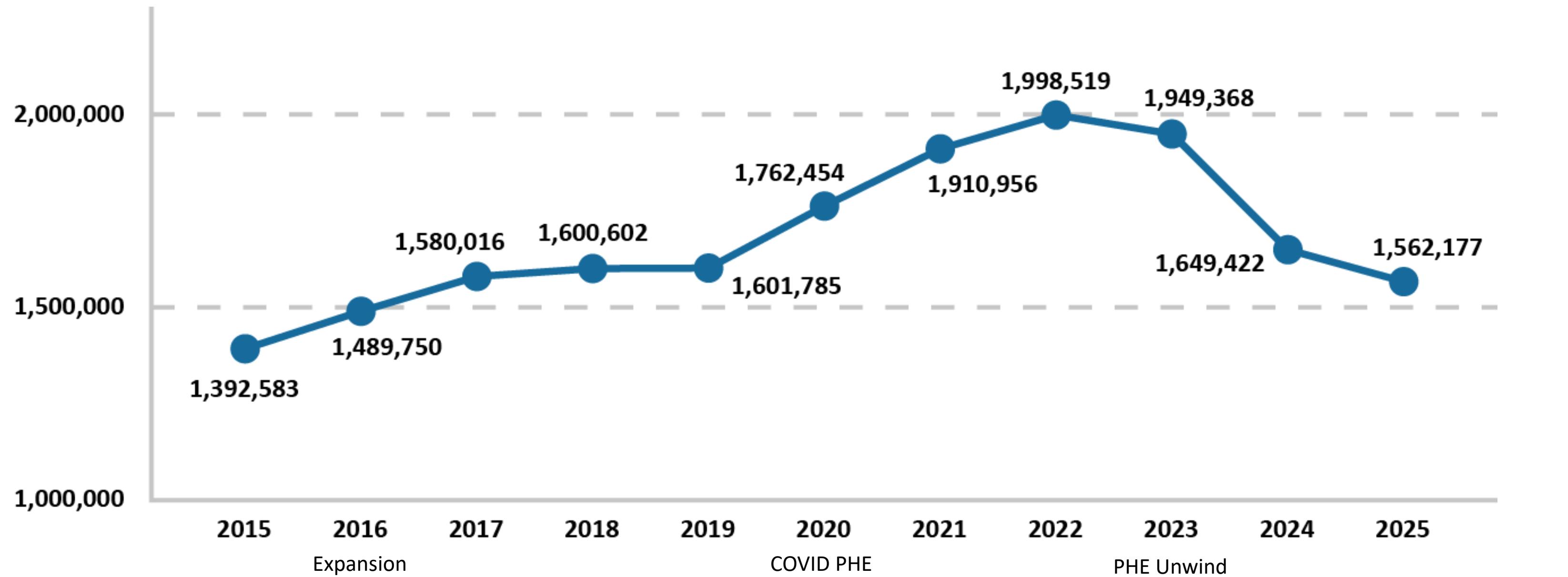
FY 2026 budget details:

| Budget Category        | State General Fund (SGF) | Federal Funds    | Total            |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total Medicaid Program | \$5,286,101,587          | \$15,968,849,325 | \$21,254,950,912 |

- Medicaid is a program **jointly financed** by both **Louisiana** and the **federal government**. Federal funding amounts are contingent on the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP).
- Depending on the service and the person receiving care, the FMAP can vary between **50%** to **90%**. On average, Louisiana receives about **\$3** from the federal government for every **\$1** in additional contributions by the state.

# MISSION & ROLE

Medicaid enrollment over the past 10 years



# MISSION & ROLE

## Our Three-Pronged Mission:

- **Improving** health outcomes for the people we serve;
- **Driving** quality and satisfaction; and
- **Reducing** health care costs.



*Medicaid team members*

# 2025 PERFORMANCE



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## Reduced Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

- Implemented Louisiana DOGE initiatives, resulting in **\$104.5 million in estimated savings** as of April 2025, driven by the **removal of duplicative enrollees** and other **targeted cost-containment strategies**.

## Increased Access to Care

- Expanded access to care by **increasing physician reimbursement rates to 85% of Medicare**, representing a **\$258 million investment** in Louisiana physicians and strengthening provider participation statewide.

## Improved Health Care Quality and Outcomes

- Hosted the inaugural **Louisiana Quality & Value Convention** and **strengthened the Managed Care Incentive Program** to further LDH priorities of rewarding Medicaid payments to high-performing MCOs and providers that deliver better results for Medicaid members.



*Louisiana Quality & Value Convention*

# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



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FY 2026 budget details:

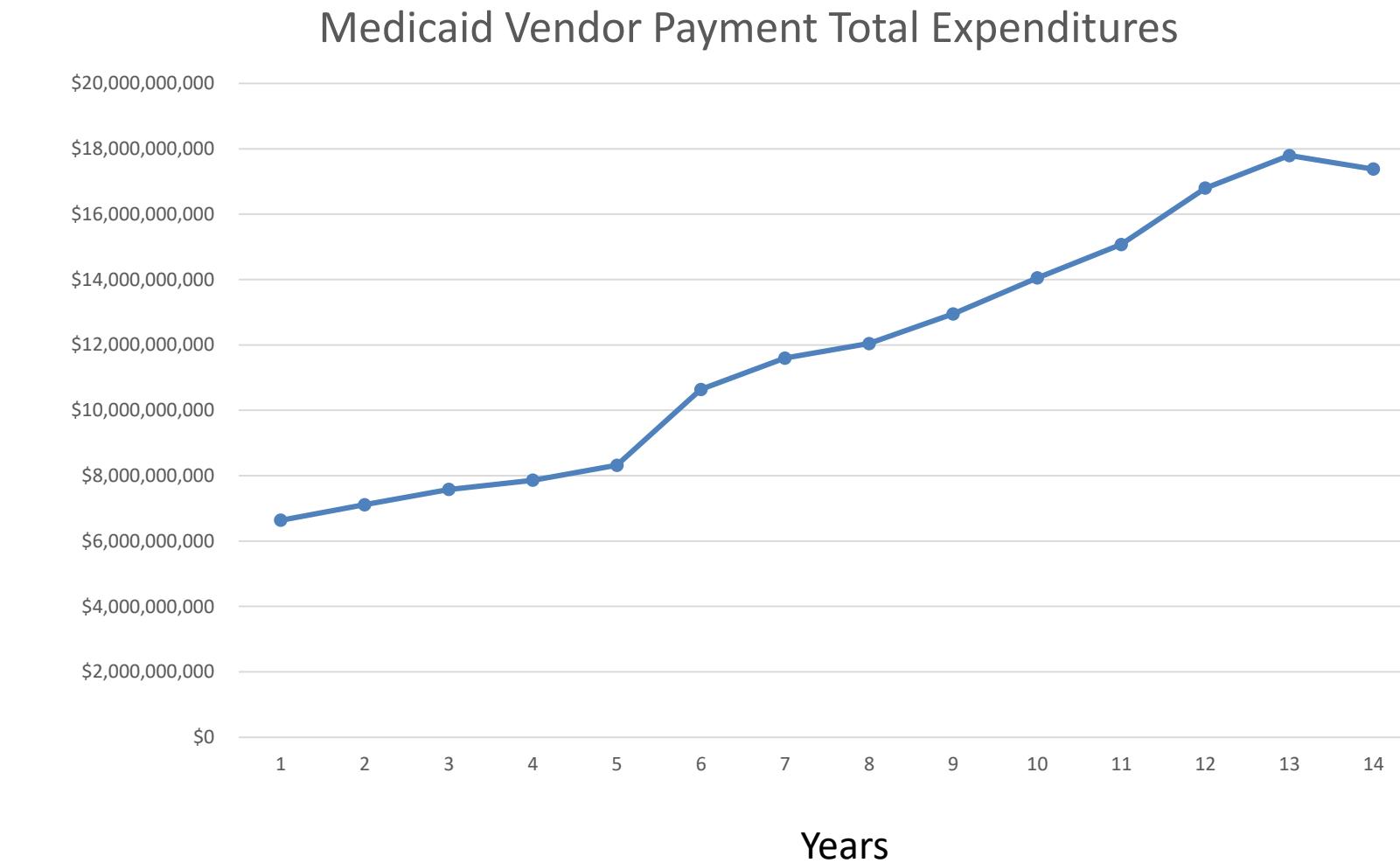
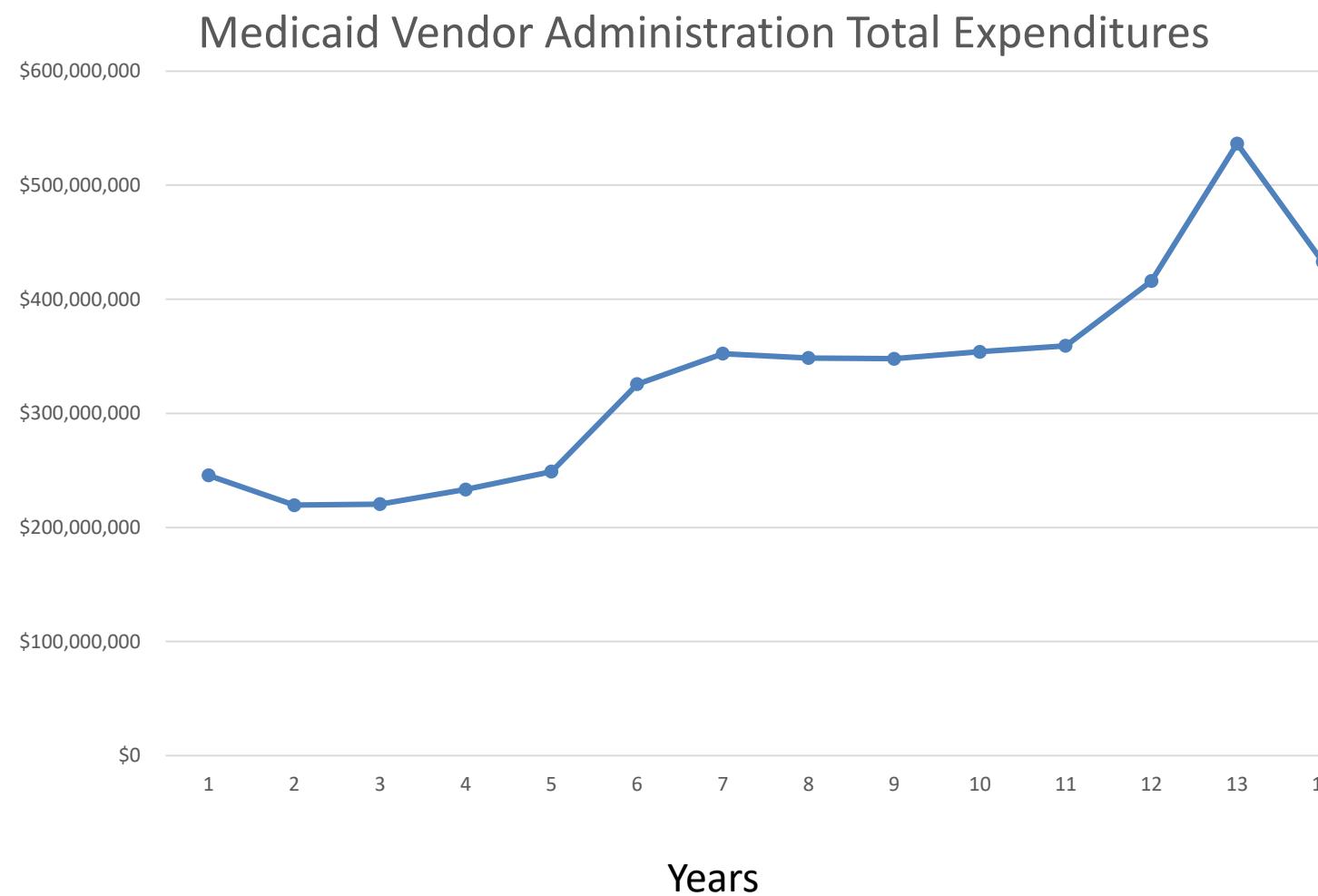
| Budget Category                | State General Fund (SGF) | Federal Funds           | Percentage  | Total                   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Medicaid Vendor Payment        | \$5,138,635,934          | \$15,508,563,105        | 97%         | \$20,647,199,039        |
| Medicaid Vendor Administration | \$147,465,653            | \$460,286,220           | 3%          | \$607,751,873           |
| Total Medicaid Program         | <b>\$5,286,101,587</b>   | <b>\$15,968,849,325</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>\$21,254,950,912</b> |

*\*Medicaid is jointly funded by the State of Louisiana and the federal government.*

- Medicaid is the **largest line item in LDH's budget**, and LDH is committed to **holding down administrative costs** so that total investments can be returned to the people of Louisiana.
- **Changes by the federal government** to Medicaid funding will bring newfound challenges to Louisiana. Our budget this year is in good standing, but future years will have new challenges as **federal funds decline**.

# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

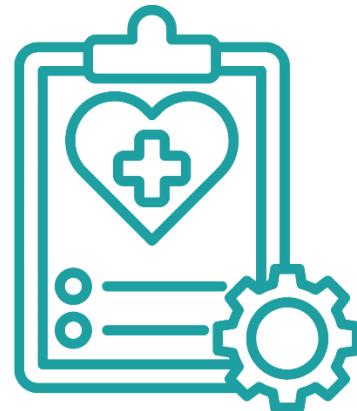
|                                  | MVA             | MVP               | Total             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Total expenditures over 15 years | \$5,497,898,962 | \$183,208,226,439 | \$188,706,125,401 |



# 2026 GOALS & PRIORITIES



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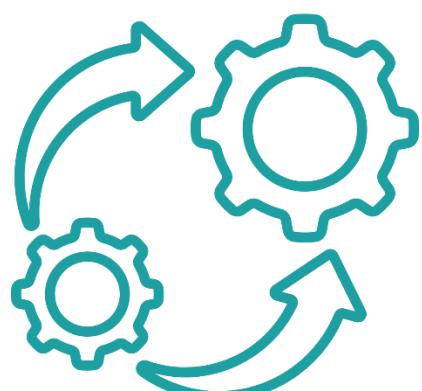
## Managed Care Modernization

- Implement new **Managed Care Incentive Program quality initiatives** to drive greater quality.
  - Strengthen access to **behavioral health services**.
  - Expand focus on **prevention and chronic disease**.
- Increase transparency, accountability, and quality of care by **improving network adequacy standards** and **reducing unnecessary restrictions on care**.



## Pharmacy Priorities

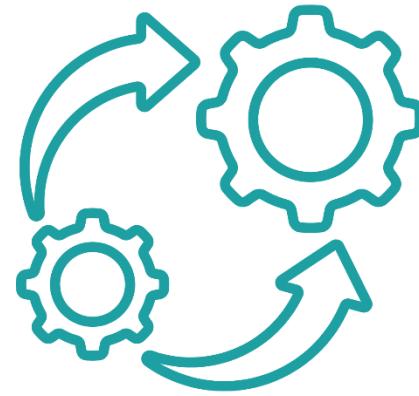
- Participate in new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) pharmacy initiatives designed to **improve medication access, affordability, and health outcomes** for Medicaid members.
- **Modernize the pharmacy benefit** by releasing a Request for Proposal to improve how preferred medications are selected and how savings are returned to the Medicaid program.



## Federal Changes

- Establish **new work requirements for working-age adults** to move members from dependence to independence.
- Enhance **protections against fraud, waste, and abuse**.

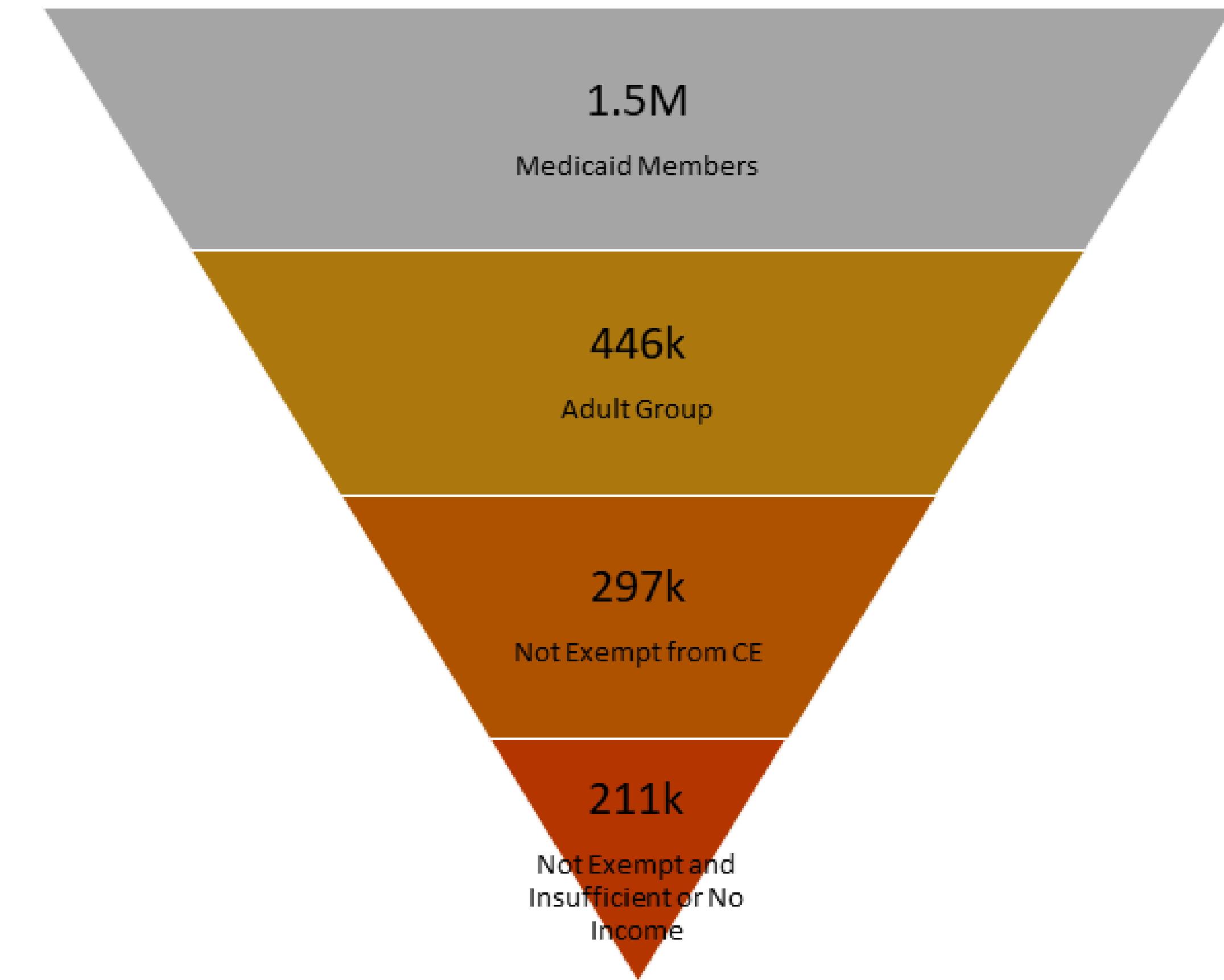
# 2026 GOALS & PRIORITIES



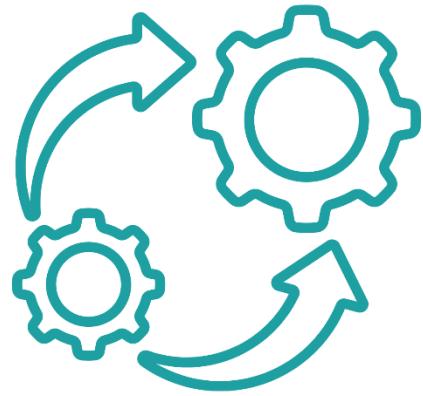
## Work Requirements

- Beginning on **January 1, 2027**, LDH will implement **new work requirements for working-age adults in Medicaid**. Members will be required to demonstrate **80 hours per month** of:
  - Work (or an income equal to the minimum wage x 80; i.e., \$580 per month)
  - Schooling
  - Job training
  - Volunteering
- **Excludes:**
  - Children and seniors;
  - Pregnant women and parents of children under 14;
  - Caretakers of dependents with disabilities; and
  - Medically frail populations (e.g., cancer, substance use, disabilities).

# 2026 GOALS & PRIORITIES



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## Work Requirements (cont.)

- **Prioritize easy reporting** by relying on existing data and only requesting information from members when absolutely necessary.
  - Payroll
  - Claims data
  - Household makeup
- **Timelines**
  - **May (6 months before start):** Initial outreach will begin to members whose coverage renews in January.
  - **August (3 months before start):** Reviews of compliance begin for members whose coverage renews in January.
  - **November:** Eligibility renewal packets will be sent out to members whose coverage renews in January.

# RESIDENT IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT



# ENGAGING WITH LDH

## Stay Informed

- **Read and respond to all Medicaid letters and messages** to stay informed about upcoming changes.
- **Keep contact information up to date** to ensure you receive important notices and guidance.
- **Sign up for Medicaid text alerts** to get timely updates and reminders.
- **Follow Louisiana Medicaid on Facebook** at [facebook.com/LouisianaMedicaid](https://facebook.com/LouisianaMedicaid) for updates and resources.

## Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)

- Louisiana Medicaid created the BAC to center beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers in policy and program design, **increasing transparency and accountability** for the residents we serve.
- **Interested in joining the Beneficiary Advisory Council?** Individuals with lived Medicaid experience who are interested in participating may email [QualityCommittee@la.gov](mailto:QualityCommittee@la.gov) for more information.



*Medicaid team members at an outreach event*

# RESIDENT IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT

## Access to Coverage and Care Coordination

- Medicaid enrollment connected Jonny to Louisiana Healthcare Connections and a dedicated care manager who understood both his health and social needs.

## Stability During Recovery

- With coverage in place, Jonny was able to focus on healing from surgery rather than delaying care due to cost or lack of access.

## Housing Support

- Through Medicaid health plan value-added benefits, Jonny received assistance with his first month's rent and utility deposits, helping him transition out of homelessness.

## Reduced Physical and Mental Strain

- Stable housing eased the physical pain and stress that had been worsened by living in his car.

## Ongoing, Trusted Support

- A strong relationship with his care manager ensures continued guidance and support as Jonny works toward long-term stability and independence.

# THANK YOU

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