









Why Florida Medicaid Needs Stronger Dental Benefits

Medicaid provides health coverage for Florida's low-income workers and families. However, the program leaves out a majority of workers earning below the poverty level and doesn't offer some essential services.

Current Benefits	Full Adult Dental Benefits
<p> For people 21 years and older Florida Medicaid only covers emergency dental services to alleviate pain, infection, or both, and procedures essential to prepare the mouth for dentures.</p> <p> There is no clarity about what, if any, non-emergency dental benefits are provided through Florida Medicaid Dental Managed Care.</p> <p> Only parents of dependent children who earn less than 27% of the federal poverty level (\$486 per month for a family of three) qualify for Medicaid in Florida.</p>	<p>Florida can expand Medicaid's minimum adult dental benefits to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services necessary to prevent disease and promote oral health, restore oral structures to health and function Treatment of emergency conditions Routine diagnostic and preventive care, such as dental cleanings, exams and x-rays Basic dental services such as fillings and extractions Major dental services such as root canals, crowns and dentures and other dental prostheses

Florida Medicaid does not currently include comprehensive dental care for adults. Providing this benefit will help Florida realize cost savings related to reduced emergency department (ED) use, chronic disease management, and a reduction in opioid prescribing.