

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDICAID 101:  
WHAT YOU NEED to KNOW ABOUT AMERICA'S  
HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAM  
for LOW-INCOME and DISABLED PEOPLE**

Medicaid is the nation's largest health program. The federal government and the states share financial and oversight responsibility for coverage of a varied population, including low-income families, the disabled of all ages, and low-income Medicare beneficiaries. For these vulnerable groups, Medicaid provides health coverage and is often the sole source of long-term care services.

Since states have flexibility in how they choose to design their specific Medicaid plans, many questions and concerns can arise that are unique to each state. Further, with recent welfare changes, the creation of the State Children's Health Insurance Program and the continuing relationship between Medicaid and Medicare, it is important that the public understands the basic structure and operation of the program.

To help Congressional staff and others answer questions about Medicaid, the Alliance for Health Reform and the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured are sponsoring a March 9 luncheon briefing on the basics of Medicaid. The briefing will be particularly useful for newer Hill staff, and staff new to the issue. Additionally, many might use the event to refresh their understanding of this key public program.

Panelists for the briefing will be: **Diane Rowland**, executive director of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured; **Christine Ferguson**, director of the Rhode Island Department of Human Services; and **Andy Schneider**, principal at the Health Policy Group research firm. **Ed Howard** of the Alliance will moderate.

**WHEN: Friday, March 9, 12:15 to 2 p.m. (Lunch available at noon.)**

**WHERE: Room 216, Hart Senate Office Building**