



HEALTHCARE

Governor Janet Mills and the Democratic Legislature support Mainers through expanded healthcare benefits, inclusive health policies, and support for healthcare workers in Maine.

- **Expanding health care access.** On her first day in office in 2019, Governor Mills signed an Executive Order [expanding Medicaid](#) services to more than 90,000 Mainers. Although voters passed Medicaid expansion in 2017 by [overwhelming margins](#), the previous administration had refused to implement it. As a result, Maine's uninsured rate dropped by almost 5% between 2019-2021, the [largest decline](#) in the nation.
- **Reining in healthcare costs.** Thanks to legislation passed by Democrats and signed into law by Gov. Mills, Maine businesses with fewer than 50 employees will see a [significant drop](#) in the cost of health care premiums for their employees in 2023, the first reduction of its kind since 2001.
- **Making insulin more affordable.** Democratic legislators sponsored a bill in 2019 that [caps insulin copays](#) in Maine at \$35 for people with public or private health insurance. The legislation also allows pharmacists to dispense an emergency supply of insulin for those whose prescriptions have lapsed.
- **Increasing pay for direct care workers.** In 2021, the Mills Administration invested [\\$54 million](#) to increase reimbursement for Medicare and Medicaid services, resulting in a [pay increase of at least 125%](#) for the state's direct care workers.
- **Expanding Dental Care coverage:** For the first time, more than 200,000 adults enrolled in the MaineCare health system will be eligible for [preventive dental services](#) across the state. The expansion also includes [increased reimbursement rates](#) for dental providers, a move that's expected to improve patient access.
- **Extending postpartum care.** Through the expansion of MaineCare benefits, Governor Mills and Democratic leaders extended healthcare benefits for [postpartum care](#) from 60 days to 1 year, which will allow people to seek care for pregnancy-related medical problems that present months after childbirth.
- **Increasing health care workforce pay and access:** The Mills Administration has focused on filling the urgent need for additional healthcare workers in Maine by investing in recruitment and retention. For future healthcare workers, the state has invested [\\$1.6M in training](#) for rural medical professionals; expanded [student loan repayment assistance](#) and relief for healthcare

workers in the state, and supported health care employers, associations, and the [Live and Work in Maine](#) program to expand outreach and recruitment for new healthcare workers.

- **LGBTQ+ fertility care:** A new law passed in 2022 by the Maine State Legislature requires private health insurance policies in Maine to provide coverage for medical interventions, including [fertility care and treatments](#). Maine joins 19 other states across the country in expanding access to family building services, increasing equality and inclusion in healthcare for LGBTQ+ people.