



Safety Net Assessment Program

Medicaid payments have stayed stagnant for almost two decades, and the difference between payments and actual cost is expected to reach \$2 billion by 2024 across Washington State. The Safety Net Assessment Program is a mechanism to increase funding to hospitals to mitigate this gap. Jefferson Healthcare is committed to ensuring that patient need drives services, and support programs that ensure access is maintained for Medicaid patients across the State.

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Medicaid services are at risk.

Over 20% of the patient population that uses services at Jefferson Healthcare is covered by Medicaid, our State sponsored health care coverage. These patients are a critical component of our system, but Medicaid reimbursement rates have not been increased in almost two decades. Statewide in 2019, Washington State hospitals lost over \$1.4 billion providing care to Medicaid patients. This has caused some systems in Washington to eliminate needed services at their hospitals, with services that serve Medicaid patients being disproportionately cut.

The Safety Net Assessment Program allows healthcare systems in Washington to continue to provide critical services to Medicaid populations.

The Safety Net Assessment Program (SNAP) is designed to activate federal matching dollars for Medicaid services. Hospitals pay assessments to the State, which triggers federal dollars back to Washington State, which are then paid to the hospitals themselves to lessen Medicaid losses. This program has been in effect since 2010, but due to changes in the regulations, is scheduled to sunset by 2028. There is a new, expanded direct payment program that has been approved by CMS and is implemented in several other states. No additional state dollars are spent on this program, and the benefits support state-wide initiatives such as the Medicaid Quality Incentive Program and integrated primary care and behavioral health residency slots.

Jefferson Healthcare is a recipient of these SNAP payments, and this funding supports a number of our financially vulnerable initiatives including our dental clinic, which provides services primarily to Medicaid adults, our Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program, and other services critical to the community. We strongly support continuing this program to limit any cuts to vital services across the State.