



# Understanding How Changes to Medicaid Impact People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)



# What the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid Expansion Did for PLWHA

**Before the ACA and Medicaid expansion, low-income adults aged 19–64 without a disability couldn't qualify for Medicaid**

**For many, the Ryan White Program was the only way to access healthcare**

**In 2014, Ohio expanded Medicaid to cover individuals with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), regardless of disability status.**

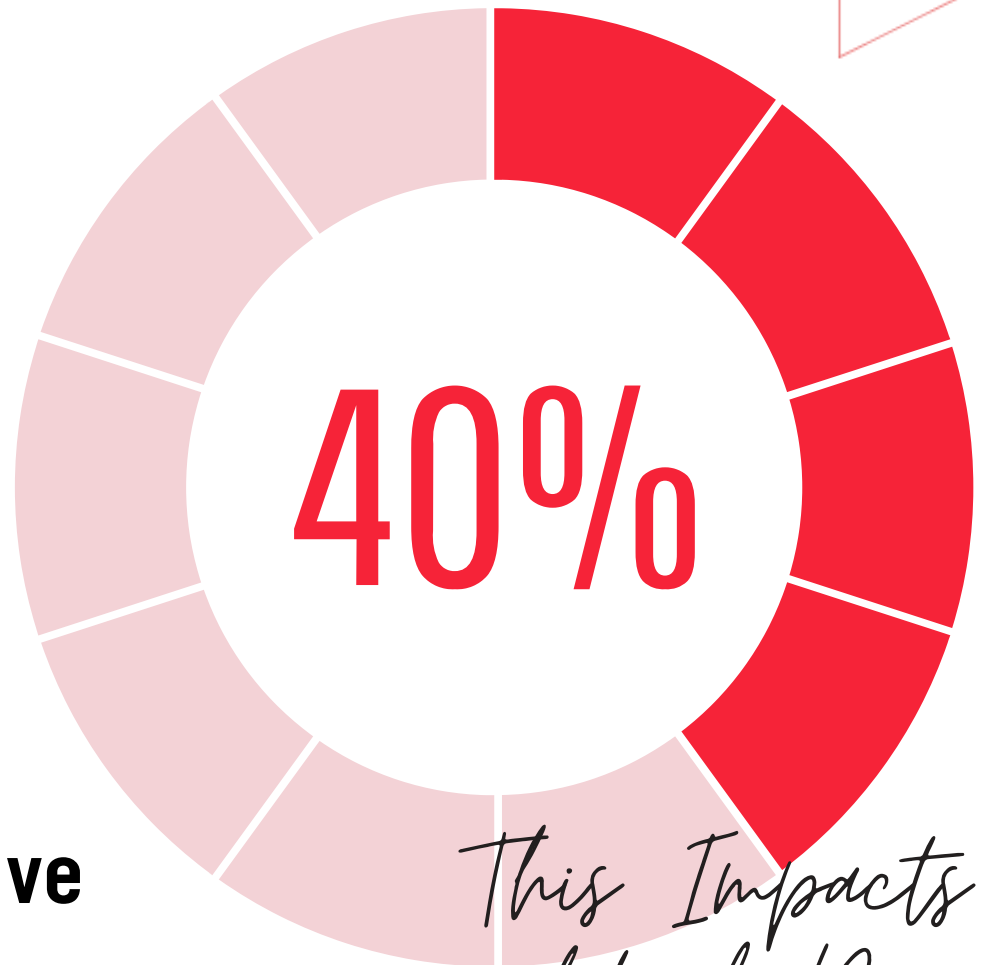
**This expansion saved lives, especially for those living with HIV/AIDS**

Also known as  
"Obamacare"



# Medicaid = Lifeline for PLWHA

**Nearly 40% of people living with HIV/AIDS in Northeast Ohio rely on Medicaid to afford the healthcare, medications, and support services that keep them alive**



*This Impacts  
a lot of People*

# House Resolution 1 (H.R.1) is Now Law



**On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 the President signed the resolution into law**

**Various aspect of this law will take affect affect over the next several years**



# Impending Effects of H.R. 1

H.R. 1 puts PLWHA at risk. Medicaid barriers, work requirements, and funding cuts block access to:

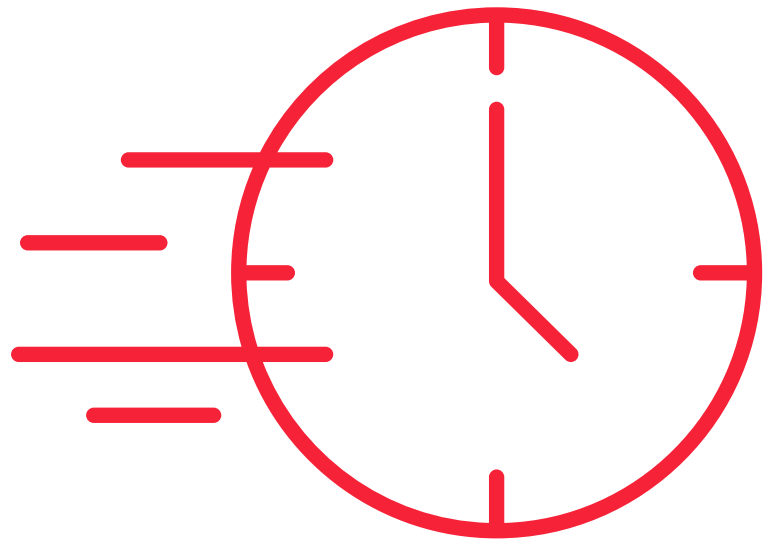
- Life-saving medications like antiretrovirals & PrEP
- Sexual healthcare providers like Planned Parenthood
- Comprehensive nursing and critical healthcare services



# Work Requirements Are Coming

**Beginning January 2026,  
adults covered under  
Medicaid expansion who  
are not working, in  
school, or meeting other  
narrow criteria may lose  
coverage**

**Nearly 450,000 people  
in Ohio could be affected**



**Let's get Educated, Let's get Organized!**



# Ohio's ADAP = Access to HIV Medications



**66% of  
clients under  
200% FPL**

**Ohio's AIDS Drug Assistance Program  
(ADAP) helps low-income PLWHA afford  
the medications that keep them  
undetectable and alive**

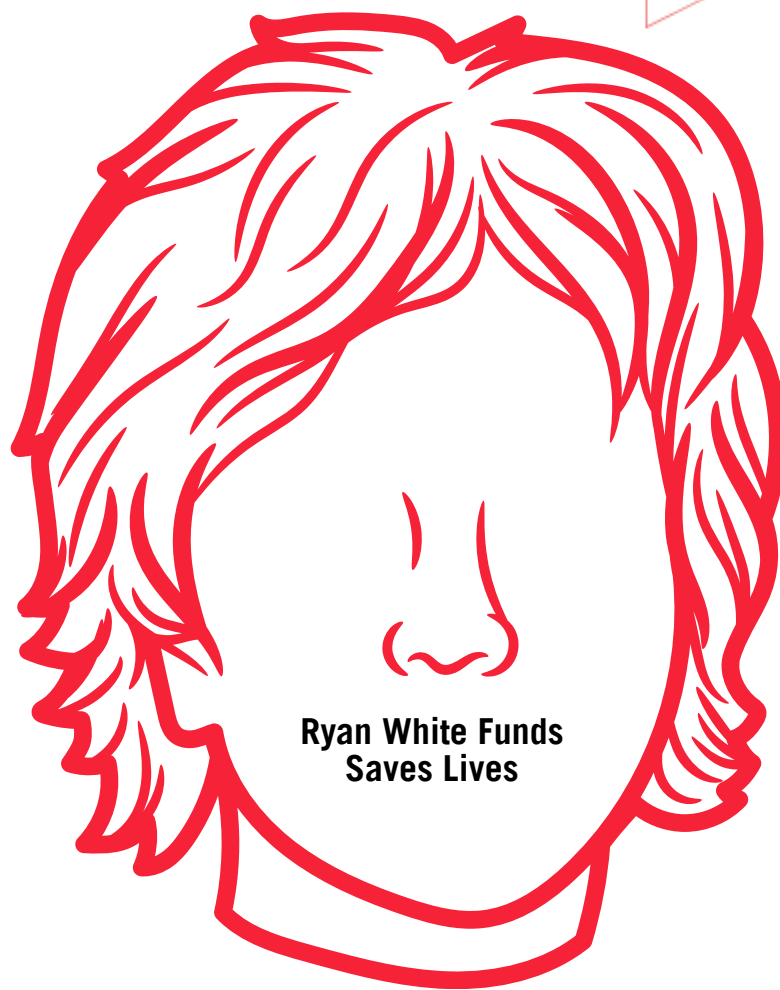
**It covers premiums, co-pays,  
and prescriptions**

# What is Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program?

**Ryan White funds medical care, medications, and support services for PLWHA who have no other way to pay**

**There is no indication that Ryan White Parts A/B dollars will be reduced in Ohio or nationally**

**People at risk of losing Medicaid will still be able to access care and medications through Ryan White funds**





# The Lived Experience

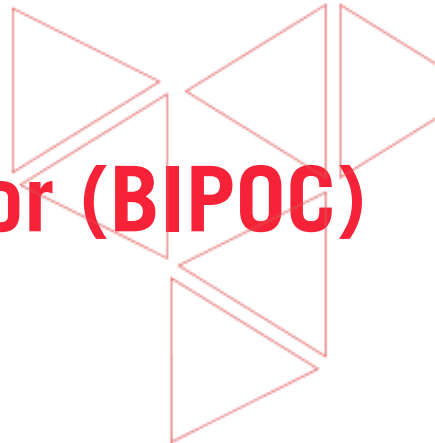
- 40%** of PLWHA say their LGBTQ+ identity changes how medical providers treat men all or most of the time
- 33%** of PLWHA have to educate medical providers about their health needs all or most of the time
- 18%** of PLWHA delay care due to their LGBTQ+ identity all or most of the time
- 18%** of PLWHA delay care due to high out of pocket costs all or most of the time

“I have Medicaid and am HIV positive and am worried about making more money and losing my insurance, but cannot move out of my housing situation unless I make more right now.

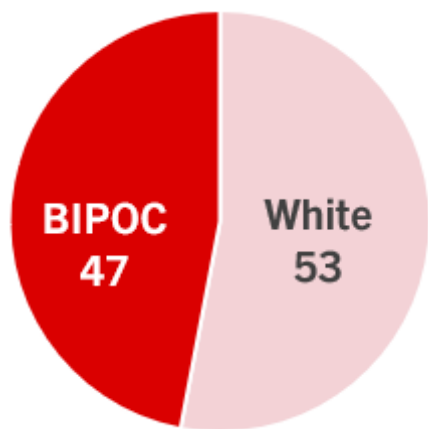
I know that there are programs that will help cover medical costs if I lose my insurance but I am afraid of trying to navigate those changes.”

**- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 28**

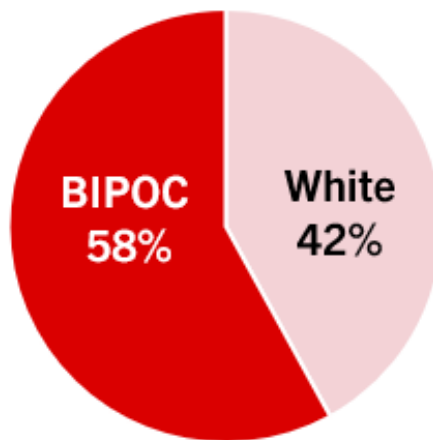
# Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Will Shoulder the Burden



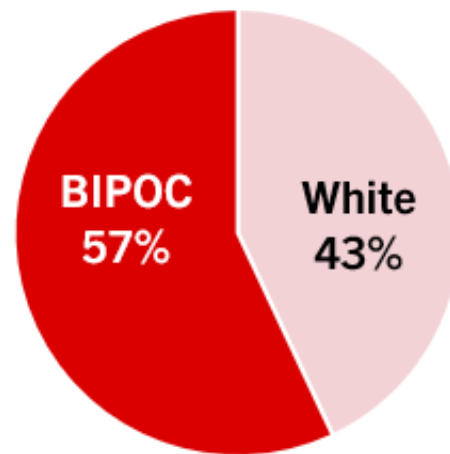
Population in Cleveland  
by race/ethnicity



Medicaid Enrollees in Cleveland  
by race/ethnicity



HIV cases in Cleveland  
by race/ethnicity

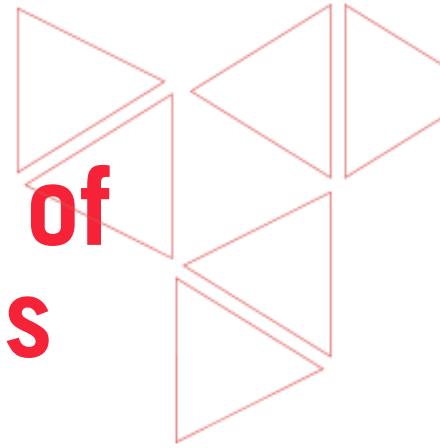


**BIPOC residents make up 58% of Medicaid enrollees in Cleveland and 57% of HIV cases even though they're only 47% of the population**

**Cutting Medicaid = Cutting Care for BIPOC Communities**



# If You Think You Are Risk of Losing Your Medications



**1**

**Don't panic!**

**2**

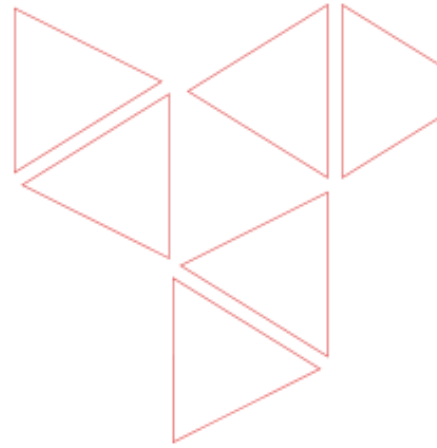
**Don't ration your medications - rationing can promote resistance**

**3**

**Talk to your prescriber about your concerns and they can help you get the medications you need**



# What You Can Do



**We've been here before and we're still here  
because we work together!**

**Talk about how these changes will affect the  
people you care about!**

**Contact your representatives to let them know  
your concern about the effects of these changes!**

**Share this information in your networks!**

**Demand care for all!**



# For More Information & Resources



Issue Due to Medicaid Changes	Resource(s) to Reach Out To	Contact Information
Loss of medication or insurance coverage	Ohio Department of Health, AIDS Drug Assistance Program	odh.ohio.gov (800) 777-4775
Difficulty accessing basic needs (food, housing, transportation)	AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center	clevelandtaskforce.org or nlurc.org (216) 621-0766 or (216) 651-8236
Need for in-home care/support	Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, Cuyahoga County Board of Health	www.ccbh.net
Concerns about funding and policy changes	AIDS Funding Collaborative	aidsfundingcollaborative.org (216) 781-2944
Access to medical/dental or mental health services	United Way 211 Helpline	211oh.org just call 2-1-1 in any locality
HIV Information and Prevention Services	Ohio HIV Information Portal/ Live Chat/ Hotline	OHIV.org (800) 332-2437

