

[Strengthening Medicaid and protecting health coverage for New Yorkers](#) is critical to ensuring that New York can respond effectively to the coronavirus public health crisis and the current economic recession. The Urban Institute has projected that Medicaid caseloads could increase by as much as 1,204,000, or 22.5 percent, through FY 2021—an unprecedented spike. New York needs help to cover those who are newly unemployed and expected to enroll in Medicaid and offset extra Medicaid costs related to coronavirus. Without proper funding, the state will be unable to treat at-risk patients, keep families healthy, or provide life-saving care.

Most New Yorkers Receive Health Insurance Coverage Through Their Employers or Medicaid, 2018

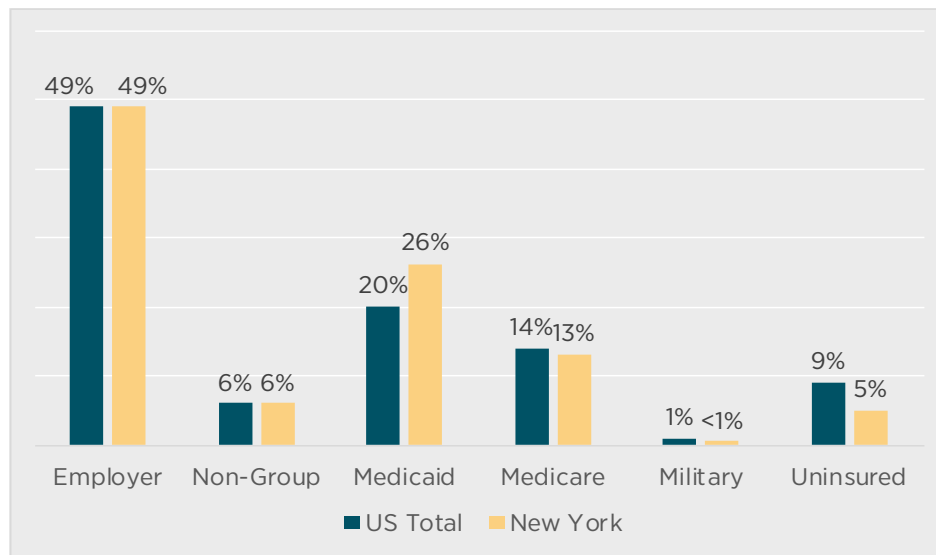


FIG. 1 Source: Fiscal Policy Institute Analysis of data from the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#)

Figure 1 shows, most New Yorkers receive health insurance coverage through their employers (49 percent) or Medicaid (26 percent). As New Yorkers lose their jobs many will also lose their employer-sponsored health insurance.

The Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act, which passed the House of Representatives on May 15 with bipartisan support, includes provisions that would help New York avoid additional layoffs and devastating cuts to services. Specifically, it would increase New York’s Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) and provide an additional \$11.1 billion in Medicaid dollars to New York over an 18-month period.

Medicaid is crucial to the COVID-19 public health response and preserving health coverage for New Yorkers. To avoid cuts to this program and others, **it is imperative that the federal government pass legislation to increase the Medicaid FMAP by at least 14 percentage points until June 30, 2021.** Congress must act urgently to get states and localities the aid they need given the magnitude of both the public health and economic crises.