



February 2025

State Action Toolkit: Preservation of the Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program

Background

After years of NBCC grassroots lobbying and influence, Congress enacted the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act in 2000. This law expanded access to health care for thousands of underserved women. The Act authorized enhanced matching funds to states to provide Medicaid coverage to uninsured or underinsured women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through a federal screening program. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, 5 U.S. territories, and 12 American Indian/Alaska Native tribal organizations opted into the Program. Tens of thousands of individuals have received treatment as a result.

NBCC remains vigilant in ensuring that the program endures, and that eligible women continue to receive the lifesaving screening and treatment they deserve.

Importance of Maintaining the BCCTP in this political environment

Given the political realities of our times, federal opportunities to further expand health care access and research will be exceedingly limited in the near term. Instead, we will spend much of our time fighting to defend against the protections our advocates have helped put in place.

As of this writing, Republicans in Congress have publicly stated their intention to cut Medicaid coverage for low-income individuals, whittle away at the Affordable Care Act, and reduce federal spending and tax measures that supports states' health care budgets and help offset healthcare costs for individuals.

We are especially concerned that these cuts could impact the treatment provided to thousands of patients through the Breast and Cervical Treatment Program.

What You Can Do

We are asking NBCC advocates to assess and report back on the status of implementation of the Breast and Cervical Treatment Program in your state. Help us identify any threats to state-provided coverage for breast cancer care so that we can further refine our strategy for action.



February 2025

If possible, schedule a meeting with the implementing agency in your state to discuss the following:

Questions for State Implementing Agencies

- How is the Breast and Cervical Treatment Program being implemented in your state?
- What is the key agency division at the state level? Who are the point-people?
- How many participants have received treatment through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act in your state this year?
- What are the criteria for eligibility for treatment through the program?
- Is the implementing agency able to share additional statistics with you about how many people have been treated over time, how the program is being implemented, any major changes that have occurred?
- Does your state require that participants only receive treatment at specific facilities? If so, which ones?
- How long does individual coverage last?
- Can participants How long does the coverage last?
- Does this program cover patients from out-of-state, or must they reside in your state?
- What are currently the biggest challenges with implementing the program?
- Is the implementing agency having any issues from federal agencies – ie receiving funds, facing cuts, etc.?
- How can the advocate community and NBCC best support their work?
- Can they share any additional intel regarding the program?

Reporting Back

Please share the results of your meetings with Maggie Bush (mbush@stopbreastcancer.org). We plan to share our learnings and further discuss strategies at the Summit in May.