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MEDICAID BRINGS ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CREATES JOBS IN LOUISIANA

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(Baton Rouge - January 12, 2012) Louisiana's Medicaid program is more than a critical source of health care for families, pregnant women, children and people with disabilities. It also plays a key role in creating jobs and building a strong economy, according to a new report by the Louisiana Budget Project.

The report looks at Medicaid's impact on Louisiana's economy and is the second of two papers highlighting the program's vital role in protecting the state's most vulnerable citizens.

Medicaid pays for 20 percent of all health care in Louisiana, and supports an estimated 57,000 jobs—from doctors, nurses and pharmacists to home-health aides and ambulance drivers. Health care is the largest single source of jobs for the state, employing 286,000 Louisianans in 2010.

Medicaid is an especially important asset to Louisiana's economy because the majority of the money in the program—70 percent—comes from the federal government. That means every time the state cuts \$1 from Medicaid, it loses \$2.33 in federal support.

With Louisiana likely to experience another shortfall in the 2012-13 budget cycle, Medicaid could once again be a target for cuts. But that would be the wrong way for the Legislature and administration to balance the budget, said Louisiana Budget Project Director Jan Moller.

"Cutting Medicaid would be terrible policy for Louisiana," Moller said. "It would harm Louisiana's most vulnerable citizens and put the brakes on economic growth at the worst possible time."

The Baton Rouge-based Louisiana Budget Project provides independent research and analysis of Louisiana fiscal issues and their impact on low and moderate income residents.

For a copy of the full report and more information on LBP, visit www.labudget.org and read "[Medicaid Supports Economic Growth, Creates Jobs in Louisiana.](#)"

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