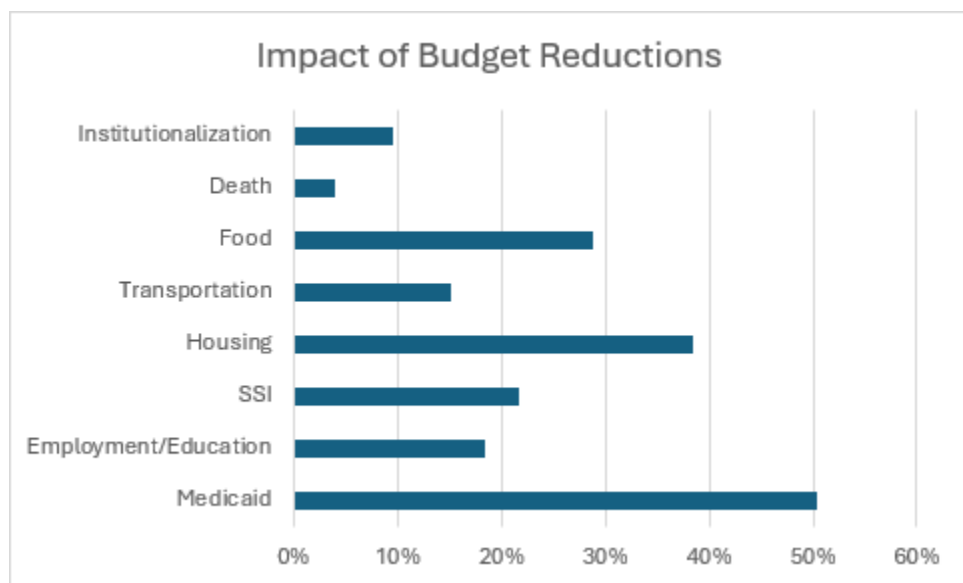




The Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) is a membership organization consisting of almost 300 members including Centers for Independent Living, Statewide Independent Living Councils, individuals with disabilities and other stakeholders. Membership represents 42 states and 2 territories. We are dedicated to advancing the rights of people with disabilities living in rural America.

We asked our members to share their stories regarding the impact of proposed reductions to services such as Medicaid, SNAP, other Home/Community Based services and disability programs. Overall, it is clear cuts to those programs would decrease quality of life. A total of 39 states and 1 territory responded to our Impact Survey.

The chart below shows significant impact to life-sustaining services received by respondents.



Medicaid/Medication
50.4%
Housing 38%
Food 29%
Social Security 22%
Employment/Education
18%
Transportation 15%
Institutionalization 10%
Death 4%

In addition to the impact percentages reflected above, individuals and families demonstrated through their stories how proposed cuts would affect and change their lives:

“Without Medicaid I would be confined to my home. I would not be able to work, socialize or spend time with my family and friends. The quality of my life would be so drastically reduced that I would probably take my life.” New York resident

“I have Medicaid Waiver so I have a support person that can drive me to my appointments and classes at the local university. It scares me because if I lose my supports and I won’t be able to finish my college degree in cybersecurity. I’ll have to move home - 2 hours away - and live with my mom. I live in a house by myself a few miles from campus. I’ll lose all of that - I’m 23 and I’m just getting started.”
Arkansas resident

“As a mother with a son with a disability, there is no way he would have access to housing, food stability, medications, or the care attendants he needs. He would FOR SURE be institutionalized.” Alaska resident

“I receive in home support, twice weekly, Medicaid, SNAP, and rent assistance. I will not be able to continue living independently if I lose any of my services. I don’t know how I would be able to pay rent and maintain my transportation if my situation changes. I could easily fall into homelessness if my situation changes and I lose the assistance currently provided.” Iowa resident

“I have a spinal cord injury and require at-home care to sustain any type of quality-of-life. Without home nursing, I would be forced to live in a nursing home.”
Ohio resident

“It creates a level of security that I haven't experienced much in my life. It makes me feel less alone and that I'm not a burden. It also impacts the people that I serve in my job as an Independent Living Specialist and for any possibility of needing those services in the future myself. It makes things feel uneasy for everyone involved.” Montana resident

The services provided to people with disabilities have a long history of allowing people with disabilities to be a contributing part of the community through employment, education, and living in their own homes, which is more cost effective than institutional or nursing home care.



Our Mission:

The Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL), a national disability-led organization, advances the equity of people with disabilities in rural communities through advocacy, collaboration, shared experience, leadership development, education, and training.

Our Vision:

To equip APRIL members to build inclusive communities where every person with a disability thrives.