Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

When Services Foster Future Possibilities

Aliyah Z. - Hammond, Louisiana

That's Medicaid *shares stories of people covered by Medicaid at critical points in their lives, underscoring the importance of stable health insurance coverage in building a Culture of Health.*

Aliyah doesn't know where she would be without Medicaid.

A college graduate and social worker in her mid-20s, she spent part of her youth in the Louisiana foster care system, which allowed her to access Medicaid services. She now puts her time and energy into ensuring those in her community—including a sibling—are able to realize the benefits of Medicaid and receive its services.

She underscores that persistence and learning to navigate the Medicaid system can be challenging, but in the end, the program is valuable.

In recent years it has covered a needed surgery and all her vision needs that are crucial to her well-being.

"Medicaid has been a great pathway to have stability in my life," Aliyah says. "It is a great benefit to provide health coverage for those who can't afford it or can't work or whatever the case may be."