



## KanCare Expansion: Just the Facts

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### **MOST PEOPLE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION ARE IN WORKING FAMILIES**

- In Kansas, more than two-thirds of those eligible for KanCare expansion work or are in working families. Most are employed in the service industry, construction, retail, and other industries characterized by small firms that are less likely to offer affordable insurance. Nationally, one out of four are caring for children, one in five have medical issues that limit their ability to work, and 17% are over age 55.<sup>i,ii,iii,iv</sup>
- KanCare expansion will encourage work and job advancement among low-income parents. In Kansas, a parent makes too much to qualify for KanCare if she earns more \$6,630 per year for a family of three – if she works a minimum wage job half-time, she would make too much to qualify. If she gets a better job, a raise, or more hours, she is likely to fall within the coverage gap – her income is too high for KanCare and too low to qualify for assistance to purchase private insurance. If Kansas were to expand KanCare, low-income parents could earn more without losing their health insurance.
- Medicaid expansion creates new jobs. In Kansas, KanCare expansion is projected to create more than 3,800 new jobs by 2020.<sup>v</sup> An analysis by Fitch Ratings found that jobs grew faster in expansion states than non-expansion states in 2014.<sup>vi</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Garfield, R. and Damico, A. (23 October 2015). *The Coverage Gap: Uninsured Poor Adults in States that Do Not Expand Medicaid—An Update*. Retrieved from <http://kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicaid-an-update/>.

<sup>ii</sup> Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (13 February 2015). *Are Uninsured Adults Who Could Gain Medicaid Coverage Working?* Retrieved from <http://kff.org/medicaid/fact-sheet/are-uninsured-adults-who-could-gain-medicaid-coverage-working/>.

<sup>iii</sup> Mahan, D. (February 2015). *Medicaid Expansion in Kansas: Health Insurance for Working Individuals and Families*. Retrieved from [http://familiesusa.org/sites/default/files/product\\_documents/MCD\\_Kansas%20Medicaid%20gap%20and%20employment\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://familiesusa.org/sites/default/files/product_documents/MCD_Kansas%20Medicaid%20gap%20and%20employment_final_web.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> Kansas Center for Economic Growth (April 2014). *Medicaid Expansion: A Pro-Growth Policy*. Retrieved from <http://realprosperityks.com/policy/health/>.

<sup>v</sup> Ku, L., at al. (November 2014), *Economic and Employment Effects of Expanding KanCare*, Retrieved from <http://www.khanet.org/CriticalIssues/KanCareExpansion/KanCareExpansionResources/123163.aspx>.

<sup>vi</sup> Fitch Ratings (19 February 2015). *Healthcare Jobs Grew Faster in ACA Expansion States*. Retrieved from [https://www.fitchratings.com/gws/en/fitchwire/fitchwirearticle/Healthcare-Jobs-Grew?pr\\_id=980053](https://www.fitchratings.com/gws/en/fitchwire/fitchwirearticle/Healthcare-Jobs-Grew?pr_id=980053).