



ALLIANCE FOR A  
HEALTHY KANSAS

## KanCare Expansion: Just the Facts

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### **Most people eligible for KanCare 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 in four are caring for children, one in five have medical issues that limit their ability to work, and 17% are over age 55.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>
- Medicaid expansion supports work. Access to affordable health insurance and care helps people maintain and manage their health and promotes the ability to obtain and maintain employment.<sup>5</sup>
- Majorities of employed adults who gained coverage through Medicaid expansions in Ohio and Michigan reported that having health coverage made it easier to work or made them better at their jobs. For those who were unemployed, majorities said it made it easier for them to look for work.<sup>6,7</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 than \$8,254 per year – about \$688 per month – for a family of three. If she works a minimum wage job just more than half-time, she would make too much to qualify. If she gets a better job, a raise, or more hours, she would fall into the coverage gap – her income would be 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 coverage.
- Medicaid expansion would create new jobs. In Kansas, KanCare expansion is projected to create more than 13,000 new jobs by 2020.<sup>8</sup> An analysis by Fitch Ratings found that jobs grow faster in expansion states than non-expansion states.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Garfield et al. *The Coverage Gap: Uninsured Poor Adults in States that Do Not Expand Medicaid*. Kaiser Family Foundation, June 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. *Are Uninsured Adults Who Could Gain Medicaid Coverage Working?* Kaiser Family Foundation, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, February 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Mahan and Stoll. *Medicaid Expansion in Kansas: Health Insurance for Working Individuals and Families*. Families USA, February 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Kansas Center for Economic Growth. *Medicaid Expansion: A Pro-Growth Policy*, April 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Antonisse et al. *The Relationship Between Work and Health: Findings from a Literature Review*, Kaiser Family Foundation, August 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Ohio Department of Medicaid, *Ohio Medicaid Group VIII Assessment: A Report to the Ohio General Assembly*, January 2017.

<sup>7</sup> K. Gavin, *Medicaid Expansion Helped Enrollees Do Better at Work or in Job Searches*, University of Michigan, June 27, 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Leatherman. *Preliminary Estimates of the State and Local Tax Revenue Generated by the Expansion of Medicaid Expenditures*, Kansas State University, March 2019.

<sup>9</sup> Fitch Ratings. *Healthcare Jobs Grew Faster in ACA Expansion States*. February 19, 2015.