



KanCare Expansion: Just the Facts

The disability community supports Medicaid expansion.

Medicaid expansion is a policy that benefits all Kansans, including Kansans with disabilities. In states that have expanded Medicaid, thousands of people with disabilities—and personal care attendants for people with disabilities—have obtained health care coverage. These states also have saved millions in spending and decreased waiting lists for home- and community-based services (HCBS).

- 15,000 Kansans with disabilities would become eligible for Medicaid coverage if Kansas expanded.¹
- States that expand Medicaid experience much shorter waiting lists for HCBS services. From 2013 to 2015, states that expanded Medicaid added only one-quarter the number of people to their waitlists as states that did not expand Medicaid.²
- States that expanded Medicaid have generated savings and revenue that not only offset the cost of expansion, but also create a surplus that could be used to expand HCBS.²
- Medicaid expansion does not shift resources from people with disabilities on waitlists, but brings other people with disabilities into Medicaid who previously had no or very limited access to needed health care.²
- Direct support workers and personal care attendants who care for Kansans with disabilities would also benefit from Medicaid expansion. This workforce is the backbone of the disability services system. However, there is a shortage of these workers, in part because these jobs don't typically include health coverage. Expansion would provide coverage for these workers and assist with recruitment and retention.
- KanCare expansion would provide competitive and integrated employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Research conducted at the University of Kansas shows that people with disabilities living in Medicaid expansion states are significantly more likely to be employed than those living in non-expansion states.³

¹ Cross Call et al. *States That Have Expanded Medicaid Are Better Positioned to Address COVID-19 and Recession*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, July 2020.

² Edwards. *Helping Those on HCBS Waiting Lists: Positive Impacts of the ACA*, National Health Law Program, February 2017.

³ Hall et al. *Medicaid Expansion as an Employment Incentive Program for People With Disabilities*, American Journal of Public Health, May 2018.