

# EXPANDING MEDICAID

Good for Kansas. Good for Cherokee County.

## REDUCES HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR EVERYONE

When low-wage Kansans can't get health coverage, that means more in emergency room visits and crisis treatment for physical and mental health needs. When hospitals and health care providers aren't compensated for services, a portion of those additional costs are passed on to everyone through higher prices, meaning we all pay more out of pocket and through insurance premiums.

## PROTECTS KANSANS FROM MEDICAL DEBT

Medical debt is the leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States. Getting access to affordable health insurance protects more Kansans from accruing high medical debt, and reducing their risk of bankruptcy.

## SUPPORTS A HEALTHIER WORKFORCE

Most Kansans in the coverage gap work at least one job, but aren't offered employer-based health insurance, or can't afford it. Those who are not working are often caretakers or are unable to work because of their own health conditions. When more people have access to the physical and behavioral health care they need, there are more workers healthy enough to re-enter or remain in the workforce.

## KEEPS KANSAS ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE

Nearly all Kansas industries have employees who would benefit from expansion. Expanding Medicaid helps our employers, small businesses, and workforce compete with our neighboring states, who have all already expanded their Medicaid programs.

## PRESERVES AND STRENGTHENS RURAL COMMUNITIES

For Kansans in rural communities, accessing health care when and where they need it is becoming a significant challenge. When hospitals in rural communities close, not only do residents struggle to get care, but the community loses good-paying jobs. Expanding Medicaid would help ensure rural Kansans get the care they need while also boosting their local economies.

## ENSURES UNIFORM ACCESS TO CARE FOR ALL KANSANS

Hispanic and Black Kansans are more likely to live in the coverage gap. Kansans who live in frontier counties and in the southwest part of the state are also more likely to live in the coverage gap. Expanding Medicaid allows all low-wage Kansans access to affordable health care, regardless of their race, how much money they make, or what their ZIP code is.

EXPANDING  
MEDICAID  
WILL BENEFIT

CHEROKEE  
COUNTY

574

Cherokee County uninsured residents who would become eligible for Medicaid with expansion.

174

new jobs would be created in Cherokee County with Medicaid expansion.

\$5,166,000

in new annual health care spending in Cherokee County.



ALLIANCE FOR A  
HEALTHY KANSAS  
2024