

# Kansas Must Expand Medicaid Now

## What is Medicaid Expansion?

Most Kansans get health insurance through an employer, or Medicare for those over 65, or Medicaid. If Kansans make “too much” money to qualify for Medicaid and don't get insurance through work, they're often uninsured.

This gap in health coverage is a huge problem. When hardworking Kansans don't have insurance and go without mental and physical health care, it can hurt their ability to keep a job and care for their families.

Kansans are self-reliant and value hard work. Most Kansans who can't afford basic health care are working – sometimes more than one job -- just to put food on the table for their families. These Kansans are our neighbors. They are our family members. They work in food service, child care, elder care, or other industries that don't usually offer insurance. They deserve access to affordable healthcare.

## What if Kansas Expanded Medicaid?

**Lower costs for ALL Kansans:** Expanding Medicaid will reduce health care costs for everyone by providing health insurance to 150,000 Kansans in rural areas, small towns, and cities across the state and making sure doctors and hospitals don't have to provide care for free - costs that get passed on to all of us.

**Kansas' tax dollars would stay in Kansas:** Expanding Medicaid doesn't have to be political. Forty other states have already expanded Medicaid, but every year Kansas doesn't, the money we send to Washington, D.C., goes to California or New York instead. We need to keep tax dollars here in Kansas, to help Kansans afford the health care they need.

**Help strengthen and protect rural hospitals:** When an uninsured Kansan ends up in the ER, the hospital often has to cover the bill. These extra costs hurt the hospital's bottom line. As a result, **eight** Kansas hospitals have closed in the last decade — devastating workers and families in the area who relied on those hospitals for jobs and care.

# The Kansas Legislature needs to listen to the majority of Kansans. There's no excuse. Let's lower health care costs for ALL Kansans.

If we expand Medicaid, more uninsured Kansans would have access to affordable health care coverage. That's a good thing!

## HEALTHY KANSANS MEANS:

- ➔ HEALTHY FAMILIES
- ➔ A STRONGER WORKFORCE
- ➔ MORE BUSINESS PRODUCTIVITY
- ➔ BOOSTING OUR ECONOMY

- Expanding Medicaid in Kansas is fiscally responsible. No new Kansas tax dollars would be used while federal incentive money is available. Every year Kansas fails to expand Medicaid, our federal tax dollars go to states like California or New York to keep their citizens healthy. We need to keep these dollars here in Kansas to help Kansans afford the necessary health care.
- 40 other states have expanded Medicaid, and research shows those states did not experience longer wait times or scheduling difficulties. Additionally, most Kansans have private health insurance through an employer or are over 65 and qualify for Medicare and want to keep it that way.
- States that expanded Medicaid experienced improved health outcomes for their residents across a broad range of acute and chronic conditions. Access to affordable health care means healthier Kansans. Kansas is stronger when our citizens have access to affordable health care.
- In Kansas, there are strict limits on who can qualify for Medicaid. For example, an uninsured single parent with two kids has to earn about \$4.00 an hour to qualify. And, if you don't have children, you cannot qualify at all, no matter how little you make. We need to expand Medicaid, so Kansans who are working hard but still can't afford insurance can get the health care they need.
- For over a decade, politicians have claimed that the federal government would change their funding commitment to states that expand Medicaid. That is false. As long as that ACA law remains in place, the federal government will pay 90%.