



2024 Medicaid Expansion Questions

Now more than ever it is critical that advocates of Medicaid expansion know where their elected leaders stand on the issue. Legislative meetings provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and learn about the views of your elected officials about Medicaid expansion. The following is background information, and the next page has a list of questions that you can use at legislator forums or when talking with your elected leaders one-on-one.

Background information

- A recent poll from a national polling firm shows that 73% of Kansans support Medicaid expansion. Similarly, the Fall 2023 Kansas Speaks survey from Fort Hays State University shows support for Medicaid expansion at about 70%.
- Expanding Medicaid will help reduce health care costs for everyone. When low-wage Kansans can't get health coverage, that means more emergency room visits and crisis treatment for physical and mental health needs. It also protects Kansans from medical debt, which is the leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States.
- A recent poll showed that most Kansas voters believe that families are struggling with high costs these days, especially in the areas of health care, housing, child care, and food costs. Nearly 8 out of every 10 voters thought that Kansas policymakers are not in touch with the financial challenges most Kansas families are facing.
- The income limit to qualify for Medicaid is about \$9,800 a year for a family of three. Many of those who would benefit from expansion work in the following industries:
 - Accommodation and food services
 - Administration and Support and Waste Management
 - Wholesale trade
 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
 - Educational Services

Expanding Medicaid would raise the income eligibility limits so that more hardworking Kansans who contribute to the economy can get the health care they need for themselves and their families.

- Kansas currently has some of the most restrictive requirements in the country to qualify for Medicaid. But about 70% of those potentially eligible under Medicaid expansion already work at least one job. Expansion encourages work and job advancement among low-income parents, and makes it easier for individuals to maintain steady employment.

- Kansans in our rural communities already have a hard time accessing health care when and where they need it and rural health care providers face high levels of uncompensated care. Expanding Medicaid would strengthen and sustain the rural health care system and help ensure rural Kansans get the health care they need while giving a boost to their economies.

Questions for lawmakers

- What are your views on expanding Medicaid? How would you vote if a clean Medicaid expansion bill came to the floor?
- What is your plan to help reduce health care costs for all Kansans?
- What steps are you taking to reduce the burden medical debt has on Kansans?
- What steps are you taking to close the coverage gap and provide access to affordable health insurance for those who currently don't have any options?
- What is your plan to assist low-wage parents with access to affordable health insurance, if they do not already have it?
- What steps would you take to reduce the levels of uncompensated care in rural hospitals? How would you ensure rural Kansans have access to the health care they need when they need it?