



KANSAS IS READY FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION

What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is a state and federal health insurance program that helps with medical expenses for people who can't afford them.

What is Medicaid Expansion?

For the most part, Kansans get health insurance through their employer or through Medicaid. Right now, a single mom with two kids has to make less than \$9,500 per year to qualify for Medicaid. If people make too much money to qualify for Medicaid and don't get insurance through work, they likely don't have health insurance.

The federal government now offers states funding to expand Medicaid to people in that coverage gap. It's a great deal – **the federal government covers 90% of the costs, the states cover 10%**. Because Kansas hasn't taken that deal, we have left nearly \$7 billion in Washington. Kansas' federal tax dollars are supporting workers and hospitals in other states.

Why support Medicaid Expansion?

When Kansans don't have insurance and go without mental and physical health care, it hurts their ability to hold down a job and care for their families. Many of these Kansans also can't afford to pay for care when they go to the hospital – resulting in 8 hospitals that have closed in recent years and higher health care costs for everyone else.

Busting Medicaid Expansion Myths:

“Medicaid Expansion encourages able-bodied Kansans not to work.”

140,000 Kansans work but don't have insurance. They need healthcare to take care of their families, and to keep contributing to our economy.

“Kansas can't afford Medicaid expansion.”

Research from other states shows that states save money due to expansion because they spend less on incarceration and other services.

“Medicaid expansion will be bad for Kansans with disabilities.”

Medicaid expansion would allow 15,000 more Kansans with disabilities to access essential care and services.

KANSAS IS READY

Medicaid Expansion In Kansas

40

The number of states that have expanded Medicaid. Every state that borders Kansas has expanded Medicaid.

150,000

The number of **uninsured Kansans** who would receive health care coverage under Medicaid Expansion.

23,000

The number of jobs that would be created in Kansas.

\$591.7M

New annual health care spending in Kansas.

\$72M

The amount Kansas is spending **each year** on Medicaid that could be covered by expansion.

What can you do?

Reach out to your State Representative and Senator and ask them to **Support Medicaid Expansion.**

Medicaid Expansion Talking Points

High-level Explanation of Medicaid Expansion

- Medicaid is a state and federal health insurance program that helps with medical expenses for people who can't afford them.
- If people make too much money to qualify for Medicaid and don't get insurance through work or Medicare, they likely don't have health insurance.
 - In the gap: A single mom of two making between \$9,500-25,000. Meaning, a full-time, minimum wage worker working for one of your members would be in this gap.
- The federal government now offers states funding to expand Medicaid to people in that coverage gap.
- It's a great deal – the federal government covers 90% of the costs, the states cover 10%. Studies show that states often make back that investment because, with a healthier workforce, they spend less money on incarceration and other services.
 - And actually, to incentivize more states to take the deal, the feds have offered to pay 100% of the costs for the first two years.
- Because Kansas hasn't taken that deal, we have left nearly \$7 billion in Washington. Kansas' federal tax dollars are supporting workers and hospitals in other states.
- And 8 rural hospitals have closed, in part because uninsured people come in and then can't pay for care. This devastates the surrounding communities and businesses.

People in the Coverage Gap

- You will hear “Medicaid Expansion is for able-bodied adults choosing not to work.” That is not true.
 - Most Kansans, ~74%, that would benefit from expansion work. The most common jobs among adults in the coverage gap are cashier, retail salesperson, cook, waiter, construction worker, housecleaner, and janitor.
 - They are also Kansans with disabilities – who, with more access to care and resources, could potentially join the workforce.

- Because you have to make so little in order to qualify for Medicaid as we have it here in Kansas, we're actually disincentivizing work. If people want to retain health coverage, they can't work more than part-time minimum wage.

Medicaid Expansion Impact on the Healthcare Sector

- Expansion would increase business recruitment by ensuring a stronger healthcare system for workers and businesses.
 - **17,757 or 8.7%** of employees in the health care and social assistance industry would be eligible for Medicaid with expansion.
- Research shows Medicaid expansion would create nearly 23,000 jobs across the state, including **11,900** in the healthcare sector, because of increased economic activity spurred through stronger hospitals.
- Kansas needs Medicaid Expansion to help their rural hospitals:
 - **8** rural hospitals **have closed** since 2014, costing communities thousands of jobs
 - **60** of Kansas' 104 rural hospitals are **at risk of closing**
 - Nationwide, rural hospitals are **6 times more likely to close** in non-expansion states
- Hospitals experience higher reimbursement rates and a decrease in uncompensated care costs leading to a net positive effect which outweighs the increase in unreimbursed Medicaid care under expansion.
- Expansion brings increased revenue to federally qualified health centers and community health centers which for some, has led to higher salary growth for primary care providers meaning expansion improves workforce retention in the healthcare sector.
- A healthier workforce is a more productive workforce. Chronic absenteeism negatively impacts costs, workforce productivity, and employee retention, and is made worse when employees are sick.
 - Expansion increases access to preventative screenings, necessary prescriptions, and treatment for chronic conditions.
 - In Ohio, a study done after expansion showed 84% of Medicaid enrollees said having Medicaid made it easier to work.

Healthcare and Childcare Benefits

- Too many Kansans now have to drive hours to receive basic care, and our doctors, nurses, and hospital staff are leaving for higher pay in neighboring states, exacerbating our health care workforce shortage.

- Medicaid expansion would create 23,000 jobs including 11,900 in healthcare which would help put an end to our health care worker shortage.
- Expanding Medicaid would support rural hospitals and keep their doors open so rural and working Kansans won't be forced to choose between staying in their hometowns and leaving the state to receive healthcare coverage.
- Expanding Medicaid benefits the roughly 74% of uninsured able-bodied Kansans that are working and holding down jobs at restaurants, in childcare, in senior care, and in other industries that do not offer health insurance. It is essential that ensure the health of those supporting families and those in the childcare sector that support our children.

Post Medicaid Expansion Effects

- Research shows that there were no significant expenditures seen by states that have expanded Medicaid. This is due to an influx of federal funding and a boost to economic activity.
- States such as Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, and Virginia, have consistently showed expansion produced *net savings* for many states. In addition to the FMAP, expansion allows states to spend less on programs related to the uninsured and collect more revenue from taxes on the managed care plans through which many Medicaid beneficiaries get their coverage.
- In 2014–17, Medicaid expansion was associated with up to a 4.7 percent reduction in state spending on traditional Medicaid. Estimates of savings on mental health care, in the corrections system, and from reductions in uncompensated care range from 14 percent of the cost of expansion in Kentucky to 30 percent in Arkansas.
- Workforce impacts:
 - Colorado expanded Medicaid in 2014 and in the first two years [31,074 jobs](#) were created
 - A [University of Michigan study](#) found that unemployed workers were more likely to keep looking for work in expansion versus non-expansion states.

Call to Action

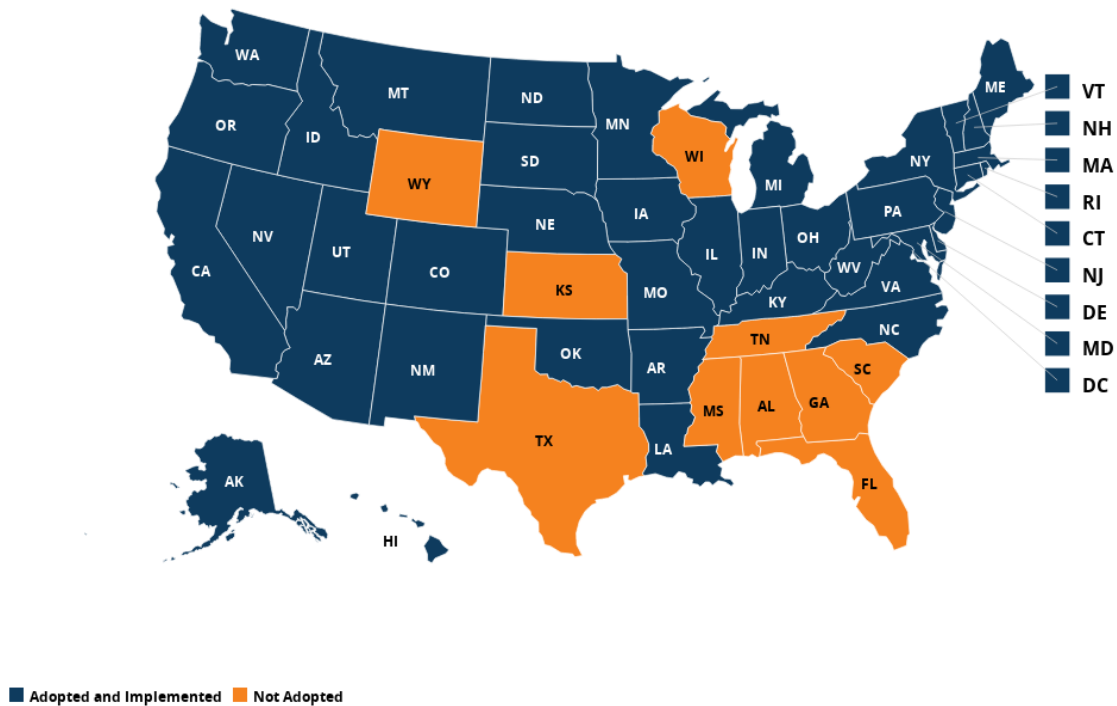
- Thank you for taking the time to talk with me today about this important issue. Medicaid Expansion would mean a lot for the members of my association, and I'd ask that you support this policy and ask legislative leadership to allow a vote on Medicaid Expansion during the 2024 legislative session.

Potential Question and Answers

- Is this a partisan issue?
 - No. Nearly 80% of Kansans – regardless of party – support Medicaid expansion.
- Will this result in raised taxes?
 - No. Only two states, California and Utah, have increased taxes to pay for expansion, and in those cases it was approved by voters through a ballot referendum.

Medicaid Expansion Map

Status of State Action on the Medicaid Expansion Decision



SOURCE: KFF, kff.org