

KanCare Expansion 2021: It's Practical, Not Political

Medicaid expansion is not a political issue, but a practical opportunity to help health care consumers, providers and communities by closing the coverage gap, reducing uncompensated care costs and bringing desperately needed federal dollars into the Kansas economy. Thirty-eight states—including all of Kansas' neighboring states—have adopted Medicaid expansion. It's time for Kansas to join them.

MEDICAID EXPANSION IS ESSENTIAL FOR A HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE

Keeping working Kansans healthy

- Expanding Medicaid right now can help those who are putting their health on the line every day during the Coronavirus crisis. Essential workers in grocery stores and pharmacies, home health workers in nursing homes, front office staff at hospitals and health clinics—these are often the workers who are uninsured and could be covered if our state expanded Medicaid.
- Kansas should expand Medicaid right now so that workers who lose their jobs because of the pandemic can still access affordable health coverage to maintain their health and help to drive the economic recovery.
- In Kansas, more than two-thirds of those eligible for KanCare expansion work or are in working families. Most are employed in the service industry, construction, retail and other industries characterized by small firms that are less likely to offer affordable insurance.
- Medicaid expansion supports work. Access to affordable health insurance and care helps people maintain and manage their health and promotes the ability to obtain and maintain employment

Increasing access to preventive and mental health care

- Tens of thousands of hardworking Kansans fall into a coverage gap, with no affordable insurance options. They earn too much to qualify for the current KanCare program, but not enough to qualify for financial assistance to purchase private insurance.
- Expansion substantially increases health care coverage, improving access to all health care services, including preventive care, primary care and prescription drugs.
- Kansans who need services for mental health and SUD disorders make up a substantial share of the uninsured who would gain coverage from KanCare expansion.
- Treating behavioral health conditions has been shown to reduce rates of disability, increase employment productivity and decrease criminal justice costs.

MEDICAID EXPANSION BOOSTS THE ECONOMY AND BENEFITS KANSAS BUSINESSES

Maximizing federal dollars and keeping costs low

- Medicaid expansion is a good deal for states. Federal funding for expansion covers 90 percent of all costs.
- Kansas has forfeited more than \$4 billion—our own federal tax dollars that could have come back home—by failing to expand KanCare.
- Expansion is likely to be budget neutral after accounting for economic offsets and additional revenue generation.

Recovering economically from COVID-19

- Kansas is experiencing historic levels of economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic that will likely result in significant state budget cuts in the upcoming year. Medicaid expansion would help to fuel the recovery by infusing approximately \$700 million annually into the Kansas economy.
- KanCare expansion will increase economic activity and help businesses get back on their feet. It's critical that we bring in these federal dollars to jumpstart Kansas' economic engine.
- KanCare expansion is projected to create more than 13,000 new jobs.

MEDICAID EXPANSION PROTECTS AND STRENGTHENS OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Keeping rural hospitals and clinics open and serving their communities

- 30% of Kansas' rural hospitals are financially vulnerable.
- Rural hospitals in non-expansion states are 6 times more likely to close than those in states that have expanded Medicaid.
- Community health centers in expansion states have experienced an increase in Medicaid patients and a corresponding decline in uninsured patients. Medicaid expansion is associated with improved quality of care and enhanced use of recommended preventive services for rural patients.

Ensuring providers are thriving

- Medicaid expansion is associated with improved hospital financial performance and substantially lower likelihoods of closure.
- Medicaid expansion has led to reduced uncompensated care burdens in hospitals across the country.
- Health centers in expansion states have higher revenue, greater operational capacity and more financial stability than those in non-expansion states. These centers have more sites, serve more patients and are more likely to provide behavioral health and vision services.
- Kansas is being left behind. 38 states—including all of our neighbors—have expanded Medicaid. This puts Kansas at a severe disadvantage when it comes to recruiting health care workers and competing for resources.