

SAYING 'YES' TO MEDICAID EXPANSION MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE FOR WYOMING.

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Medicaid expansion would protect our rural hospitals from being pushed to the brink of closure by the growing costs of caring for the uninsured, inject millions of dollars into our economy and provide healthcare to an estimated 19,000 low-income Wyomingites.



SAY YES TO MEDICAID EXPANSION!
SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 80 MEDICAL TREATMENT
OPPORTUNITY ACT-MEDICAID REFORM

A HEALTHY WORKFORCE IS A PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE.

WHO WILL MEDICAID EXPANSION HELP?

Working Medicaid expansion enrollees are often employed in lower-wage industries like restaurants, construction, agriculture, hospitality and retail. Having health insurance and being able to take care of one's physical and mental health has a positive impact on a person's ability to work - meaning less sick days.

19K will be eligible for Medicaid expansion.

45% will be under 35 years old.
This population will largely be female.

56% will be employed.

58% will have incomes below 100% Federal Poverty Level. The remainder will be between 100 - 138% FPL. 138% of FPL is \$18,075 for an individual; \$24,352 for a two person household; and \$36,908 for a family of four.

The vast majority of people will be high school graduates and over 56% would have at least some college education.

*SOURCE: Wyoming Department of Health's
2022 Medicaid Expansion Report*

MEDICAID EXPANSION KEEPS RURAL HOSPITALS OPEN.

Growing uncompensated care continues to threaten the viability of Wyoming hospitals.

When people lack coverage, they often seek treatment at the emergency room, which comes with a hefty price tag. In Wyoming, hospitals spend about \$120 million a year providing uncompensated care to those who can't afford to pay, according to the Wyoming Hospital Association.

In 2022, hospitals in Kemmerer and Rawlins closed their labor and delivery services due to financial struggles.

Uncompensated care is a primary reason for hospitals having worse operating margins and moving toward closure, according to FamiliesUSA 2023 report. Rural hospitals in states that have expanded Medicaid coverage have more sustainable median operating margins than states without Medicaid expansion.

Rural hospitals located in Medicaid expansion states decrease the likelihood of closure by an average of 62%.¹

WHY IS MEDICAID EXPANSION GOOD FOR WYOMING?

RETURNING TAX DOLLARS TO WYOMING

Just because we turn down federal dollars doesn't mean the feds don't spend them. Now, more than ever, it is critical that we return our federal tax dollars to Wyoming to support healthcare and rural hospitals. Medicaid expansion would bring millions of dollars back to our state to save lives.

NEIGHBORING STATES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY EXPANDED AND BENEFITED FROM MEDICAID.

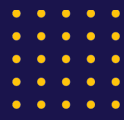
Montana, Nebraska, Utah and Idaho have successfully extended coverage to their low-income residents. In 2019, after three years of experience with expanded Medicaid, Montana's Republican-led legislature reauthorized the program until 2025. In November 2022, South Dakota voters passed a Medicaid expansion constitutional amendment. **No states have repealed Medicaid expansion after adopting it because the positives far outweighed any negatives.**

HELPING THOSE FIGHTING DISEASE

Medicaid offers a lifeline for thousands of people who are fighting diseases like cancer by helping to cover screenings, surgeries, medications and follow-up care. An American Cancer Society study showed that cancer patients in states that had expanded coverage through Medicaid had better long-term survival than in states like Wyoming, which have not.

COVERAGE FOR LOW-INCOME WOMEN

In Wyoming, more than half of those covered by Medicaid expansion would be low-income women. Wyoming has one of the nation's highest uninsured rates for women of childbearing age. This has big consequences for the health of mothers and infants.



MONTANA EXPANSION A CASE STUDY

The dramatic impact of Medicaid expansion on Montana serves as a useful guide for Wyoming. Montana implemented Medicaid expansion in 2016.

72% Medicaid expansion enrollees were employed in 2019.²

BUSINESSES IN LOW WAGE SECTORS MORE LIKELY TO HAVE EMPLOYEES ENROLLED

Nearly 90% of businesses in Montana's accommodation and food service industry had at least one employee enrolled in Medicaid expansion in 2019. Over half of construction firms and 67% of retail businesses had at least one enrolled employee.³



INFUSION OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

Montana's Medicaid expansion brings over \$650 million into Montana annually, creating jobs and supporting new economic activity. The new federal spending on Montana's hospitals, clinics, and primary and specialty care helped create and sustain more than 6,000 new jobs in 2020.²



MEDICAID SAVINGS

Medicaid expansion resulted in savings in other parts of the Medicaid program, allowing Montana to recoup enough to cover between 23% and 68% of the state cost of expansion in 2019.⁴



UNCOMPENSATED CARE DROPPED

Uncompensated care went from \$143 million in 2015, prior to expansion, to \$89 million in 2019.⁴



RAPID DROP IN UNINSURED

After implementing expansion in 2016, the uninsured rate fell steeply.⁴



LESS EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS

Montana also saw fewer people on Medicaid visiting the emergency room after expansion.² That meant fewer dollars that hospitals had to write off.

CITATIONS

- (2023) *With Impending funding crisis, rural hospitals need a Medicaid expansion lifeboat to stay afloat*. FamiliesUSA. <https://familiesusa.org/resources/with-impending-funding-crises-rural-hospitals-need-a-medicaid-expansion-lifeboat-to-stay-afloat/>
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- (2022) *Montana's Fiscal Gains from Medicaid Expansion Are a Model for Wyoming*. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/montanas-fiscal-gains-from-medicaid-expansion-are-a-model-for-wyoming>



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