Medicaid Expansion is a Win for All

HERE’S WHY...

A Win for Individual Health and Well-Being

38 states and the District of Columbia have expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to provide quality and affordable health care coverage to more of their residents.

Expanded coverage has saved lives, reduced health care costs, narrowed racial disparities, and provided peace of mind to those who would otherwise have been uninsured.

But the fight is not over. 12 states refuse to accept federal funds to expand Medicaid. As a result, 2.2 million adults in those states fall into the coverage gap—they earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to afford private health insurance.

But...in the 12 states that chose to refuse federal dollars, a disproportionate number of adults in the resulting coverage gap are persons of color. Expanding Medicaid will help end this unjust disparity.

Most Adults in the Coverage Gap are People of Color

SOME 60 PERCENT OF PEOPLE IN THE GAP IN 2019 WERE PEOPLE OF COLOR

Over 550,000 Essential Workers Fall in the Coverage Gap

Source: cbpp.org/research/health/closing-medicaid-coverage-gap-would-help-diverse-group-and-narrow-racial

And an Overdue Win for Racial and Socioeconomic Equity

Two-Thirds of Reproductive Age* Women in the Coverage Gap are People of Color

Over 150,000 Essential Workers Fall in the Coverage Gap

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A Win for State and Local Economies

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Improved Financial Security

- fewer adults with low income struggling to pay medical bills
- $3,150 reduction in medical debt among those getting coverage through Medicaid expansion
- fewer adults among those earning just above the Medicaid poverty line

Better Health Outcomes

- fewer premature deaths among older adults
- fewer adults with low income screening positive for depression
- improvements in overall self-reported health
- improved diabetes and hypertension control
- increase in timely stage cancer diagnoses

Improved Access to Care

- more adults with low income getting check-ups and other preventive care as well as regular care for chronic conditions
- greater access to mental health care

Increased Economic Mobility

- better access to credit including lower interest mortgage, auto, and other loans
- annual interest savings amounting to $1,200 per adult
- improved participants’ ability to seek employment

Reducing Uncompensated Care Costs

- 45% drop in hospitals’ uncompensated care costs, compared to 2% in non-expansion states
- improvements in hospital budgets, especially for rural hospitals

Learn more at rwjf.org/medicaid.

MORE STORIES CAN BE FOUND AT THATSMEDICAID.ORG.