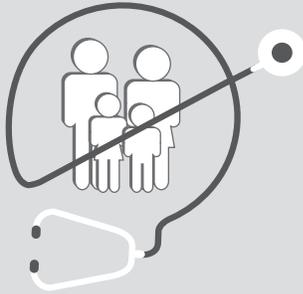




Medicaid Expansion: Frequently Asked Questions



WE ALREADY HAVE MEDICAID. WHY DO WE HAVE TO EXPAND IT?

Right now, Medicaid is extremely hard to get. Adults in a family of four who earn more than \$364 a month can't even qualify. The new expansion will help those stuck in the gap between poverty and affordable coverage. The majority of these are hard-working people who are struggling to get ahead but can't afford to go to the doctor.

ISN'T MEDICAID EXPANSION A HANDOUT FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT TO WORK?

Absolutely not. Thousands of hardworking Alabamians have low-wage jobs with no health coverage. They earn too much to qualify for Medicaid and too little to afford insurance. Under a new Alabama-designed Medicaid program, about 300,000 people in our state would finally get medical coverage, including 27,000 uninsured Alabama veterans.



3 out of 5 Alabamians who would be eligible are currently employed



EXPANDING MEDICAID MAY BE GOOD FOR THE UNINSURED, BUT WHY DOES IT MATTER TO ME?

If Alabama says "yes" to expanding Medicaid, more than 30,000 new jobs would be created over a six-year period – jobs in all sectors including health care, retail, construction, landscaping, food service and many more. The total economic impact to our state is an estimated \$28 billion over six years, including more than \$10 billion in wages.

WON'T EXPANDING MEDICAID BUST OUR STATE BUDGET?

Not at all. The entire cost for the additional coverage will be paid through 2016 by the federal government. It won't cost the state one dime. After that, the match goes down each year, but Alabama will NEVER pay more than 10%. Overall, that's less than a dime on the dollar.

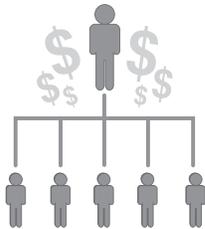


BE INFORMED. GET INVOLVED. TELL YOUR STORY.



Alabama's BEST
A BETTER ECONOMY STARTS TODAY

Medicaid Expansion: Frequently Asked Questions



EVEN THOUGH THE FEDS ARE PAYING THE TAB, IT'S STILL MY TAX DOLLARS. RIGHT?

Absolutely. And rejecting an Alabama-driven solution to expand health insurance coverage would mean the people of Alabama, who pay the same federal taxes as people in other states, would see their tax dollars actually pay for other states that are participating in the expansion. Let's bring those dollars back to Alabama.

WON'T ALL THOSE NEW PATIENTS OVERLOAD THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM?

Quite the opposite. The billions of federal dollars for Medicaid expansion would revitalize our health care system. But without it, Alabama hospitals will face increasing cuts in funding while treating a growing number of uninsured patients. Some hospitals will cut services and reduce staff. Others will close. This affects all Alabamians.



OTHER THAN ECONOMICALLY, HOW WILL THIS HELP OUR STATE?

Improving families' health is critical to our future. It means fewer sick days for workers and better productivity for Alabama's economy. It means fewer bankruptcies due to medical bills, and more bills getting paid.

HOW LONG DOES ALABAMA HAVE TO DECIDE ON WHETHER TO EXPAND COVERAGE?

We're losing money right now. The opportunity to expand the program began January 1, 2014. The clock is ticking, and the longer we wait, the more money we lose. Alabama cannot afford to walk away from billions of dollars that could revitalize our health care system and our economy.



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