Closing the Coverage Gap Benefits People with Disabilities, Chronic Illnesses and Complex Medical Needs

Contrary to popular belief, people living with disabilities in poverty are not automatically eligible for public health insurance coverage.

NC Medicaid uses an extremely narrow definition of disability rather than the definition of disability used by the Americans with Disabilities Act, leaving out many people with disabilities, chronic conditions and complex medical needs.

EVEN WITH THESE CONDITIONS, people don’t automatically qualify for medicaid:

- Physical Disabilities
- Mental Illness
- Substance Use Disorders
- Cognitive Disabilities
- Chronic Illnesses
- Life-threatening Diseases

1 in 7 people in the coverage gap has a DISABILITY

150,000 North Carolinians with substance use disorders and/or mental illness could gain coverage if NC closes the gap

>54,000 North Carolinians in the coverage gap have difficulty with:

- Bathing
- Dressing
- Independent Living

641 New cancer diagnoses each year, including 291 early-stage diagnoses, if NC closes the gap

Closing the coverage gap promotes employment for people with disabilities

Closing the coverage gap increases the income eligibility threshold for Medicaid and doesn’t impose asset limits, freeing people to work without fear of losing care

For data sources and more information, check out the full report Uninsured North Carolinians with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses Stand to Gain if NC Closes the Coverage Gap (June 2019) at: bit.ly/2WCDWSg

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