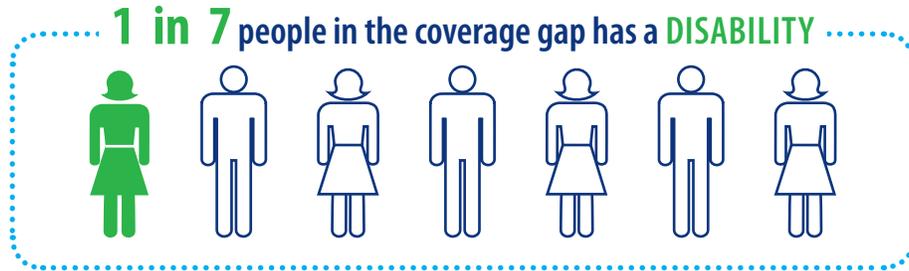




# Closing the Coverage Gap Benefits People with Disabilities, Chronic Illnesses and Complex Medical Needs

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



**NO INSURANCE**

**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:*

And of this group, **46%** report experiencing **more than one** disability



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

**NOW HIRING**

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