COVID-19

Medicaid Expansion and COVID-19

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> The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic affects North Carolina's ability to adequately protect ourselves, our communities, and healthcare systems.
>
> Our state has over 1 million residents who are uninsured and this figure is rising everyday with record numbers of people losing their jobs.[1]

BENEFITS OF EXPANDING MEDICAID FOR NC

>500,000

More than 500,000 North Carolinians would gain coverage, allowing them to access treatment for COVID-19 complications and address any underlying health issues that have gone untreated.[2]

Many people who are uninsured are working in our state's essential businesses. They are our cashiers, gas station attendants, and childcare workers[5] They are at a high risk for infection and we need our essential workers to be safe and healthy.

>105,000

The Economic Policy Institute estimated that during the last two weeks of March, over 105,000 North Carolinians lost their employer-sponsored health insurance due to job loss.[1]

Ninety percent of Medicaid expansion is paid for by the federal government and the remaining 10 percent is paid by healthcare entities.[6]

Hospitals and community health centers need to get reimbursed for providing care so they can continue to keep their doors open during a pandemic.[3]

Complications from COVID-19 will require people who are incarcerated to access care in a hospital, risking unexpected cost overruns to state and local budgets for health services. Expanding Medicaid can provide local and state budgets a way to be reimbursed for any care incurred at a hospital for people who are incarcerated. [7]

It protects all of North Carolina when we have more people who are insured and able to access care and treatment.[4]

1   https://www.epi.org/blog/3-5-million-workers-likely-lost-their-employer-provided-health-insurance-in-the-past-two-weeks/
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3   NC House Covid-19 Healthcare Committee Meeting. 2020, March 26
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5   Toledo, L. Understanding Medicaid and its impact in North Carolina. 2017. Retrieved from https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/understanding-medicaid-and-its-impact-in-north-carolina/
6   Ku, L, Bruen, B, Brantley, E. The economic and employment benefits of expanding Medicaid in North Carolina: June 2019. Retrieved from http://www.ncpolicywatch.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Expanding-Medicaid-in-North-Carolina-final.pdf
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