

Why We Need to Close the Healthcare Coverage Gap

In SC, over 400,000 adults 19-64 have no health insurance. (2024 Data)

- **70% of SC small businesses** don't offer it ¹
- Among the one-quarter of workers nationwide with the lowest wages, almost **2/3 aren't eligible** for their employer insurance ²
- Many low income workers don't qualify for the exchange

Can SC Afford to Cover More Adults? **Yes!**

- **246,000 South Carolinians** would gain access to affordable health coverage if we expand Medicaid ³
- SC would only invest 10% of the total cost (\$244 million in FY27)
- The SC investment would bring the 90% federal match - a **net \$1.99 billion every year**
- The experience of other states shows the new tax revenue from economic growth and savings in state programs largely offsets the state's long term cost ⁴

Medicaid Today

- Only covers **parents** earning **less than \$17,856** (3 person family)
- (*pregnant and post-partum women have higher income eligibility*)

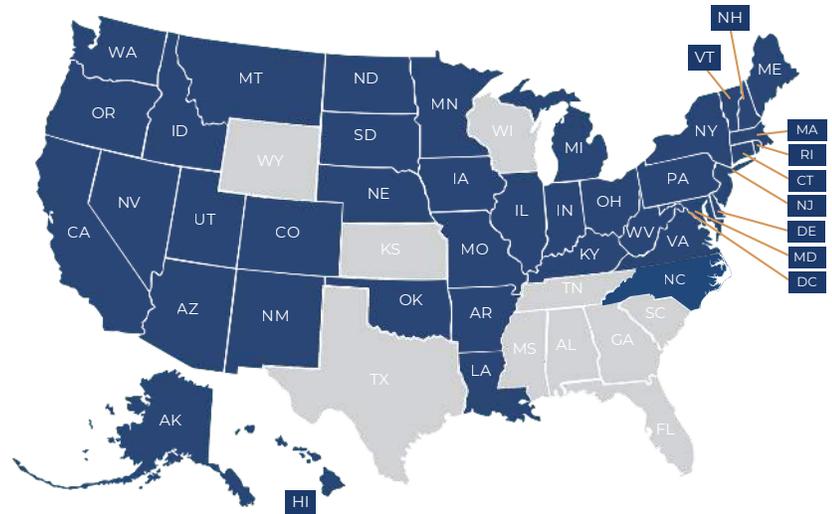
Medicaid Expansion

- Covers parents earning **less than \$36,777** (3 person family)
- Also covers **all adults** earning less than **\$21,597** (single adult).

Don't Let SC Be Left Behind

40 states and DC have already closed the gap

If South Carolina does not close the healthcare gap, we lose **\$20 BILLION** in federal funds over 10 years to other states ⁴



Most people on Medicaid in the US work, and work hard.

Data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey

Nationally 92% of people on Medicaid 19-64 work, take care of dependents full-time or have a serious illness or disability that prevents work.

- **64%** work (occupations include: construction, food service, janitorial, retail, child care and personal care); **7%** are in school or training
- **12%** care for dependents full-time; **10%** have a serious illness/disability

Closing the Gap Leads to a Stronger Economy



17,756

new jobs will be created by 2027



\$71 Million

in new tax revenue by 2027



\$2.51 Billion

in economic output over by 2027

Closing the Gap Improves Health and Family Financial Independence



12%

decrease in mortality⁶ by year four for those ages 55-64



47%

decrease in⁷ family medical debt



18%

increase in⁸ access to diabetes care



31%

more hypertension⁹ controlling prescriptions written



20%

decrease in¹⁰ maternal mortality

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Join Today!

Note on data: This report was done prior to the passage of HR 1 in July 2025 which made major changes to requirements for enrolling under Medicaid expansion. The enrollment, cost and economic data has been adjusted based on the Congressional Budget Office's estimate of a 20% reduction in enrollment due to work requirements. Cover SC will update the numbers as more analysis is available in the future.