

Seven Great Things about Enrolling 700,000 Pennsylvanians in Medicaid Expansion

In February 2017, Pennsylvania enrollment in Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) reached 700,000 people.

Through Medicaid expansion, families that need help affording medical care can get the preventive care and treatment they need.

Medicaid expansion is good for families, taxpayers, and the economy. Here are seven reasons why.



- 1. Medicaid expansion helps working people.** Medicaid expansion provides coverage up to 138% of the federal poverty line – about \$33,500 for a family of four. Medicaid expansion covers people working as home health care aides, restaurant workers, and retail employees.
- 2. Medicaid expansion helps kids.** [Studies show](#) that parents who gain Medicaid are more successful in getting coverage for their kids. Healthy parents are better able to support and care for their families.
- 3. Medicaid expansion [is a vital tool](#) in fighting Pennsylvania's opioid crisis.** Since Pennsylvania expanded Medicaid in 2015, 63,000 new enrollees have received drug and alcohol treatment, and Pennsylvania has received funding to run 50 centers to treat enrollees struggling with addiction.
- 4. Medicaid expansion makes sure that women can access health care.** Medicaid covers breast and cervical cancer screening, family planning services, and other preventive care. It guarantees women access to their choice of family planning providers, reducing barriers to care.
- 5. Medicaid expansion supports hospitals across Pennsylvania.** As more people have health coverage, hospitals and health systems are able to [spend less](#) on uncompensated care. Many hospitals are using the money saved to [improve the care](#) they offer.
- 6. Medicaid expansion helps the state budget.** Since 2015, Medicaid expansion [has saved](#) more than \$500 million in state General Funds by shifting people from state funded coverage to federal Medicaid.
- 7. Medicaid expansion creates jobs.** Federal funding for Medicaid has helped to create jobs across Pennsylvania. [Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) shows that states with Medicaid expansion experienced 30% more job growth in the health care and social services sectors.

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