



Top 7 Reasons to Expand Medicaid

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1. **It's a great deal for Utah.** The federal government will pick up 100% of the cost of coverage for 3 years phasing down to 90% in the following years. Refusing the expansion means turning away over \$4 billion in federal tax dollars that will end up going to other states.
2. **It will save Utah tax dollars spent already on the uninsured.** If low income Utahns remain uninsured, their medical costs will continue to be shifted onto the privately insured. This "cost shifting" raises insurance premiums, on average, over \$1,000 per year.¹
3. **It protects Utah workers against preventable illnesses.** This results in a healthier and more productive workforce for Utah **employers**, boosting our competitiveness.
4. **It's the right thing to do.** Over 400,000 Utahns have no insurance. Private insurance options within reach of low wage earners have high deductible plans covering catastrophic events, with little or no coverage for preventive care. Expanding Medicaid gives Utah families healthcare coverage when they have no other options.
5. **It helps children by helping their parents.** In Utah, parents lose eligibility for Medicaid when their incomes reach just 44% of the federal poverty line (approx. \$8,400 for a family of three in 2012). Expanding Medicaid will increase coverage for parents so they can meet their financial obligations and take care of their health.
6. **It saves lives.** In states that have already expanded Medicaid, mortality rates have been reduced significantly.² Adults also experienced significant reductions in delays getting health care due to cost.³
7. **It is efficient.** The per enrollee cost growth of Medicaid (6.1%) is lower than the per enrollee cost growth of Medicare (6.9%), private insurance (10.6%) and premiums for employer-sponsored coverage (12.6%).⁴

¹ See 42 U.S.C. § 18091(2)(F).

² <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1202099#t=articleMethods>

³ Benjamin D. Sommers, M.D., Ph.D. et al., *Mortality and Access to Care Among Adults After Medicaid Expansions*, N. ENG. J. MED. (published online July 25, 2012).

⁴ Kaiser Family Foundation, *Ten Myths About Medicaid* (#7306)