

New Report: Medicaid Expansion Would Create Nearly 14,000 Jobs

Study Also Finds that Working Utahns in Key Economic Sectors Would Gain Access to Health Insurance under Prop 3

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SALT LAKE—A [new report](#) released by Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP) today finds that Proposition 3 would create and sustain nearly 14,000 jobs in addition to delivering healthcare for 150,000 Utahns.

In August, UHPP [released](#) an initial [economic impact study](#), which also found that Proposition 3 would create \$1.7 billion in economic growth. The influx of about \$800 million every year in federal funds under Proposition 3 would generate the economic stimulus, including the creation of new jobs.

| Year | Jobs Created ² | Income ³ | Total Economic Activity |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| FY2021 | 13,607 | 784,196,274 | 1,693,544,533 |
| FY2022 | 14,430 | 837,163,191 | 1,803,843,401 |
| FY2023 | 15,252 | 890,743,818 | 1,914,966,692 |
| FY2024 | 16,110 | 947,141,023 | 2,031,600,204 |
| FY2025 | 17,105 | 1,007,024,787 | 2,153,614,732 |

Thirty-three other states have expanded Medicaid and are already receiving hundreds of millions of dollars back from the federal government.

“The choice before voters is simple. Are we going to bring our tax money home from Washington, D.C. to create jobs and help hard-working Utahns get healthcare or whether we are going to continue to watch our money go to other states to pay for their healthcare and to help their economies instead,” said Republican State Representative Ray Ward.

Under Proposition 3, Utah would receive nine dollars in federal funds for every dollar it spends.

“If someone offered most of us nine dollars if we would give them a dollar, that’s a deal most of us would take, and that’s the deal on the table right now for Utah,” said Stacy Stanford, Policy Analyst for UHPP. “We need our state to make a smart investment and bring our tax dollars home to Utah, where they belong.”

“Right now, Utah families are hurting without access to life-saving healthcare, while hundreds of millions of dollars in uncompensated care is driving up the cost of health insurance for the rest of us. That needs to change.”

The UHPP study also highlighted the [top ten industries](#) in which Utah’s uninsured population currently work. Although these Utahns work in widely diverse jobs, they have one thing in common—they earn too much to qualify for existing Medicaid and not enough to afford health coverage.

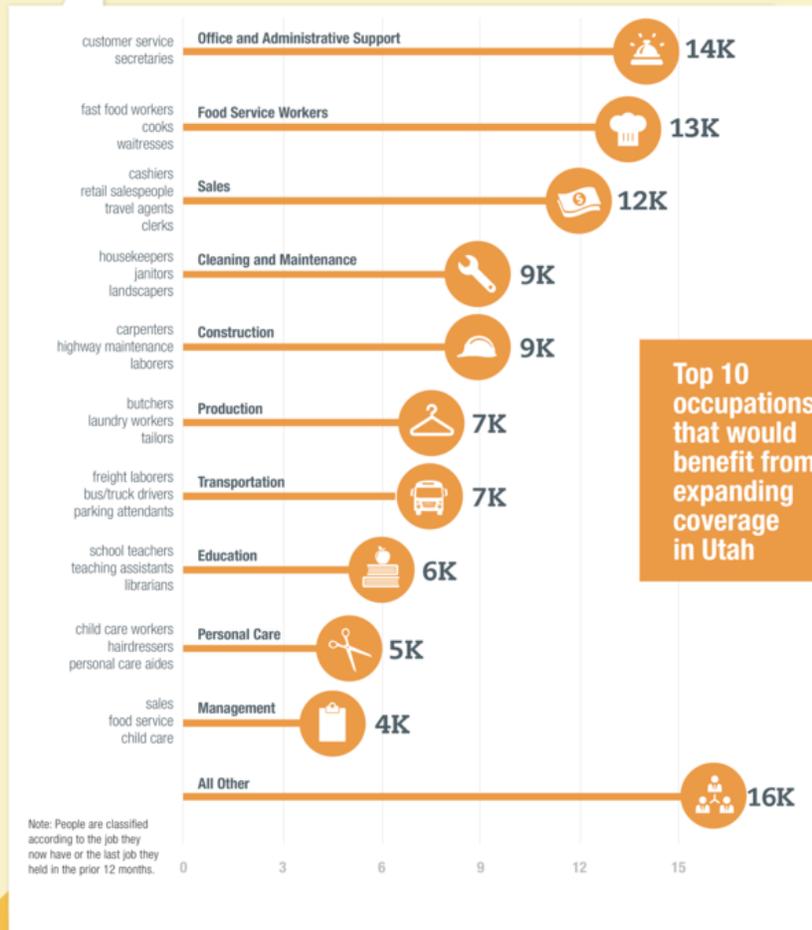
Cedric Willis is one of the 150,000 Utahns who will benefit if Proposition 3 passes. “I work full-time at a food catering company. I’m grateful for this job because it makes sure I can pay my bills every month, but the income I earn makes me ineligible to continue receiving Medicaid. If Proposition 3 passes, I won’t have to worry about insurance. For now, those concerns weigh on me because I have medical needs that require care.”

Proposition 3 would deliver life-saving healthcare to more than 150,000 Utahns, including parents and those with chronic illnesses. It would expand Medicaid to individuals earning less than \$17,000 a year, or parents earning less than \$34,000 per year for a family of four.

Top 10 occupations of the employed in Utah who would benefit from expanding health coverage



Most of those who would benefit if Utah expanded health coverage are working adults. Fully 66 percent of those who could benefit work in occupations that Utah residents rely on, supporting industries that are the foundation of the state's economy.



Top 10 occupations that would benefit from expanding coverage in Utah

Expanding coverage is a sound investment for Utah, creating a healthier workforce and strengthening the state's economy.

Our calculations define Utah adults with incomes under 138% of poverty who are employed but either lack health insurance or have purchased health insurance from the individual market, and who are currently working or who have worked in the last 12 months. This population is equal to 66 percent of the 155,000 adults who could benefit if the state expanded health coverage. It excludes the following people: people who have been out of the workforce for 5 years or more, which includes people with disabilities, retirees, non-working spouses, students and dependents aged 18-24 (20 percent of the 155,000 adults who could benefit from expanded health coverage) and those we define as "unemployed", who had not worked in 1-5 year (14 percent of the 155,000 adults who could benefit from expanded health coverage).

Source: These data are based on information from the American Community Survey from 2012-2016, which is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Data are based on an analysis of Utah residents ages 18-64 with family incomes up to 138 percent of poverty (\$20,780 for a family of three in 2016) who either are uninsured or purchase insurance from the individual market. This analysis was conducted by Families USA and Utah Health Policy Project.



Proposition 3 would deliver healthcare for all 150,000 Utahns who need it. The ballot initiative also remains the only way to return \$800 million a year back to Utah from Washington, D.C. Previous efforts by states to provide healthcare to only some of the families who need it require a federal waiver, and those waivers have been repeatedly rejected.

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