

Top 5 Reasons to Support the Governor’s Healthy Utah Plan

Utah has an opportunity to cover more people and save millions of dollars currently spent to treat the uninsured in emergency rooms. With the Healthy Utah Plan, which is supported by 88% of Utahns, we can do this by bringing our tax dollars home to provide health coverage to low-income working uninsured Utahns. Accepting these funds, which are already set aside, will save lives, improve the state’s overall health, and provide a needed economic stimulus to the state.

Here are the top 5 reasons to support the Governor’s Healthy Utah Plan:

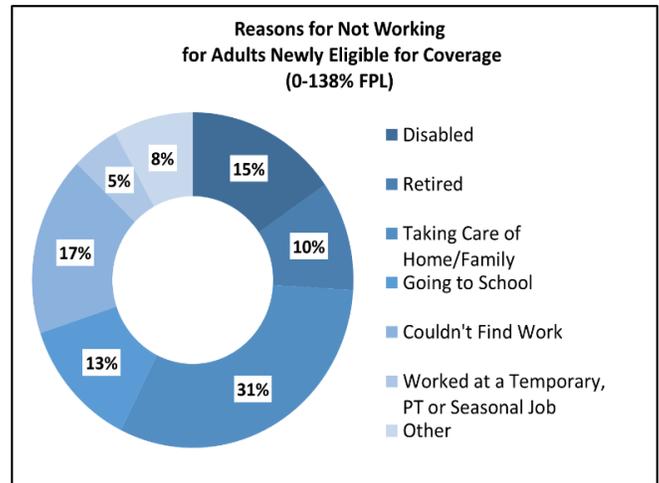
1. It Helps Hardworking Utahns

We will be helping Utahns who are working, but whose jobs either do not offer coverage or offer a plan that’s too expensive

The vast majority of Utahns who would benefit from the Governor’s Healthy Utah Plan are currently employed.ⁱ

65% of the newly eligible population are employed

85% of family households have at least one adult working

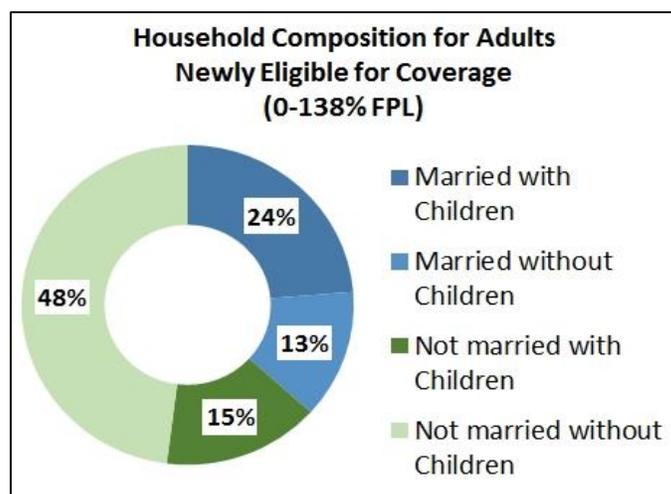


Among those who did not work in the previous year, the most prevalent reason cited for not working (nearly a third of the total) is “Taking care of family.” Other reasons include being disabled, a student, retired, or not being able to find work.ⁱⁱ

2. It Supports Utah Families

The Governor’s Healthy Utah Plan benefits 44,000 parents with dependent children

By 2016, it is estimated that 111,000 enrollees would benefit from the Healthy Utah Plan, 44,000 of whom are parents with dependent children who don’t have access to affordable healthcare coverage currently. Further, half of those projected to enroll are part of families with three-quarters of those families having children.ⁱⁱⁱ



3. It Helps Reduce Crime and Saves Taxpayers Money

Healthy Utah will reduce recidivism and save state corrections millions

Healthy Utah will reduce recidivism and save the state millions. The Healthy Utah Plan will extend health insurance benefits to low-income adults with and without dependent children. Some of whom will be involved with the criminal justice system, and have not previously qualified for Medicaid.

Providing health coverage to these individuals is good policy that benefits tax payers and all our state's citizens. Ohio saved approximately \$10 million in corrections costs after the state expanded Medicaid, Utah can see similar savings to the state correction system because Medicaid covers expensive costs related to prisoners who need hospitalization.^{iv}

Further, studies show healthcare coverage keeps this population from returning to prison. A 2007 study of two counties in Florida and Washington over a two-year period linked access to health coverage with a 16-percent reduction in recidivism.^v

4. It Provides Security to Utah's Older Adults

Healthy Utah helps older Utahns waiting for Medicare

Whether or not the state of Utah moves forward with the Healthy Utah Plan will have absolutely no impact on the federal Medicare program. Any argument otherwise attempts to scare seniors into opposing healthcare coverage for their children and their grandchildren. In fact, implementing the Healthy Utah will extend coverage to low-income, near-senior adults who are stuck in a coverage gap while they wait to qualify for their Medicare benefits. In addition, near-seniors who have health insurance before they are eligible for Medicare actually cost Medicare 35% less than those who were uninsured before they were eligible for Medicare.^{vi}

5. It Will Boost Utah's Economy

The Healthy Utah Plan stops our tax dollars from going to other states

If Utah turns down the federal dollars set aside to close Utah's coverage gap, the federal Government will still spend that money in other states. In Utah, we are losing \$769,780 a day—we should spend our own tax dollars in Utah.

More Utahans with health care coverage means more preventive care. It is a more effective use of our taxpayer dollars to pay for preventive care through expanded health care coverage than to continue to have uninsured Utahns use the ER when they are already sick and cost more to take care of.

Not only will implementing the Healthy Utah Plan will return \$258 million in Utah taxpayer dollars to the state, the influx of money will support over 3,000 new healthcare sector jobs, and could lead to billions in newly generated economic impact.^{vii}

ⁱ Norman Waitzman, S. Banister, et. al., Who would be newly eligible for coverage under the Healthy Utah Plan, or full Medicaid expansion? July 2015

ⁱⁱ Id.

ⁱⁱⁱ Id.

^{iv} Jona Ison, "Ohio prisons credit \$10M savings to Medicaid changes." September 2014.

^v Joseph P. Morrissey, Ph.D.; G. Cuddeback, et. al., "The Role of Medicaid Enrollment and Outpatient Service Use in Jail Recidivism Among Persons With Severe Mental Illness," Psychiatric Services. June 2007

^{vi} United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) Continuous Insurance before Enrollment Associated with Better Health and Lower Program Spending December 2013.

^{vii} Public Consulting Group, "State of Utah Medicaid Expansion Assessment" June, 2013