



# COVER THE UNINSURED

## The Benefits of Expanding Medicaid

Expanding Medicaid access – and therefore healthcare coverage – will significantly enhance the quality of life and welfare of all people, regardless of income.

### Improves Health

- Good health and access to healthcare are fundamental needs for all human beings. Health insurance improves the overall health of working families by providing for early diagnosis and intervention.
- A recent study shows that those who gained access to Medicaid reported better health.
  - They were also more likely to have a regular source of care and have access to preventive health services, which produces better health outcomes and helps prevent against expensive, emergency care.

### Strengthens Financial Security for Hardworking Families

- Expanding coverage in one state for uninsured adults resulted in a 40% reduction in the probability that people borrow money or skip other bills to cover medical expenses and a 25% reduction in the probability that they have unpaid medical bills sent to a collection agency.

### Creates Jobs and Stimulates the State Economy

- New federal Medicaid dollars will travel throughout the local economy – from healthcare providers to their employees, to local businesses. Those who gain access to coverage have also been shown to substantially increase their spending on consumer goods – by an average of \$800 per year.



#### Good news:

4.4 million people will gain access to affordable health coverage in states that expanded Medicaid.



#### Bad news:

3 million people will be left uninsured in the states that refused to expand Medicaid.

<http://www.lhihouston.org/>



## What are the Economic Benefits?

Secure access to affordable healthcare for all contributes to a robust state and local economy.

- **All people will have the security of affordable healthcare:** Heads of households need to know that their kids will thrive and that their parents will have access to care when needed.
- **Generates jobs, income, and state tax revenues:** State Medicaid spending – strengthened by federal matching dollars – insures a flow of new money that leads to more spending. This creates new demand for services and products.
- **A healthier, more productive workforce attracts business development:** Healthy people are more reliable employees; businesses prefer to locate in areas where the workforce pool has ready access to affordable health care. Healthy employees get paid and spend more.
- **Saves the state money:** States already cover the cost of care when people cannot pay, Medicaid expansion will save states and localities between \$42 and \$85 billion on such care just from 2014-2019.
- **Reduces the economic burden on hospitals and clinics:** Medical facilities are relieved of much of the costs of emergency care provided to the uninsured. Medicaid helps keep hospitals open in underserved communities.
- **Keeps federal tax dollars in the state:** Local residents' federal tax dollars help fund Medicaid expansion, even if their state doesn't participate. Enacting the expansion will allow states to keep these federal dollars in their state.



**If the states that haven't expanded Medicaid HAD, they would have created 183,000 jobs this year.**