



## Medicaid Expansion is Good for West Central Missouri

### Rural Health Care

In 2011, Missouri hospitals reported \$1.1 billion of uncompensated health care due to a large number of individuals needing health care services without the means to pay for it. Under the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act (ACA), Missouri hospitals could see declines in reimbursement dollars by \$3.3 billion from 2013 to 2020.

For rural hospitals and health care providers, this will be a sharp economic blow. Here's why: rural hospitals and health care providers offer patients the highest quality of care while tackling limitations due to size, geographic location, limited workforce and constrained financial resources. Low patient volumes, compared to urban hospitals, increase difficulties with managing the high-fixed costs associated with operating a hospital—making them more vulnerable to policy changes as well as cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. All of this is compounded by the fact that rural residents are more likely to be older, uninsured and have lower incomes.

### Missouri Medicaid Expansion and West Central Missouri

If Missouri law makers opt in to Medicaid expansion, uninsured individuals living at or below 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) will qualify for Medicaid. Specifically, this means that an individual with an annual income of up to \$15,302 would qualify. A family of four with an annual income of up to \$31,155 would also qualify. Missouri analysts project this would equate to approximately 259,499 adults enrolling into Medicaid in 2014 as a result of the expansion.

As for West Central Missouri, here is a snapshot of the uninsured population and populations living under 138% FPL by county.

Uninsured Persons in West Central, MO			
County	Total Population	#Uninsured	% Uninsured
Bates	13,799	2,548	18.5%
Benton	14,014	2,854	20.4%
Carroll	7,452	1,226	15.9%
Cedar	10,773	2,138	19.8%
Chariton	6,059	1,011	16.7%
Henry	17,775	2,933	16.5%
Hickory	6,751	1,519	22.5%
Lafayette	27,466	4,166	15.2%
Johnson	43,709	6,572	15.0%
Pettis	35,451	7,073	20.0%
St. Clair	7,392	1,439	19.5%
Saline	18,609	3,182	17.1%
Vernon	17,047	3,056	17.9%

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Persons Under 138% FPL in West Central, MO			
County	Total Population	#Uninsured	% Uninsured
Bates	3,939	1,153	29.3%
Benton	4,496	1,379	30.7%
Carroll	7,452	1,226	15.9%
Cedar	4,018	1,092	27.2%
Chariton	1,451	442	30.5%
Henry	17,775	2,933	16.5%
Hickory	2,465	769	31.2%
Lafayette	6,097	1,705	28.0%
Johnson	11,826	6,572	15.0%
Pettis	10,890	3,020	25.5%
St. Clair	2,388	700	29.3%
Saline	5,542	1,513	27.3%
Vernon	5,650	1,469	26.0%

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*Right now, one in seven Missourians are uninsured. This continues to generate lower than optimal health care outcomes, including higher rates of disease, premature death and more than \$1 billion in uncompensated care—not to mention the cost to Missouri businesses in reduced productivity. By saying yes and accepting the \$8.2 billion in federal funding to expand Medicaid in Missouri, we can help some of the most underserved Missourians at a minimal cost to the state.”*

Steve Roling is the outgoing President/CEO of Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City



*“Collective impact is what we do as a community to improve access to care. Collectively, we can contact our legislators in Jefferson City and implore them to opt in to the expansion. The impact will be more Missourians receiving health care services that they couldn’t otherwise afford .”*

Toniann Richard, HCC Executive Director

If Missouri opts in to the expansion the outcome will be increased revenue and jobs:

According to the Missouri Foundation for Health’s *Economic Impacts of Medicaid Expansion* report, here is how West Central Missouri could potentially benefit if Missouri opts in:

- Total federal contribution to the expansion will be \$538 million from 2014 through 2020
- Total state contribution will be \$22 million from 2014 through 2020
- An estimated 1,457 jobs will be created—with the majority of these jobs in the health care sector
- Total labor income from the expansion is estimated at \$333 million from 2014 through 2020
- Total tax revenue generated by the expansion from 2014 through 2020 is estimated at \$47,663,176 on the state/local level and \$68,674,700 in federal tax dollars

Without Medicaid expansion, working Missourians and rural residents will still continue to battle access to health care. If Missouri does not opt in, low-income, working Missourians will face significant gaps in coverage. The Affordable Care Act enables Missourians earning between 100% and 400% of FPL (about \$11,000-\$45,000 for individuals and \$19,000-\$77,000 for a family of three) tax credits to purchase sliding scale health insurance plans through a health insurance exchange, if they don’t have access to employer-based coverage. However, Missourians with incomes under 100% FPL will not have access to those tax credits. Their only option is coverage offered through Medicaid expansion. As for rural residents, Medicaid expansion will have a greater impact on rural Missourians, and the coverage gap without the expansion will more severely impact rural areas.

The Missouri General Assembly is slated to vote on the expansion in early Spring. Visit [hccnetwork.org/medicaid](http://hccnetwork.org/medicaid) for updates.



**Percent of population eligible for Medicaid expansion in West Central, MO**

County

Bates	8.4%
Benton	9.8%
Carroll	7.1%
Cedar	10.1%
Chariton	7.3%
Henry	7.6%
Hickory	11.4%
Lafayette	6.2%
Johnson	6.9%
Pettis	9.6%
St. Clair	9.5%
Saline	8.1%

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*“Healthy communities and economic vitality are enhanced by the health of the people who live there. Being uninsured isn’t an isolated household condition – the effects spill into the communities where people live and work. Health and human service safety nets, public health systems and hospitals feel the strain. There’s an impact on family financial stability, and taxpayers help shoulder the extra cost. We believe that Medicaid expansion can offer Missourians a pathway to better health, one that will benefit families and our state.”*

**Brenda Sharpe, President and CEO, REACH Healthcare Foundation**