

Why We Need to Close the Healthcare Coverage Gap

In South Carolina, 400,000 adults 19-64 have **no** health insurance.

- **79% of SC small businesses** - more than any state except Alaska - don't offer it
- Among the lowest wage group nationwide which makes up a fourth of all workers, **2/3 of those workers** aren't eligible for their employer insurance
- Many low income workers don't qualify for the exchange
- In SC, only parents who earn less than \$16,656 (3 person family) are eligible for Medicaid (pregnant and 12 month postpartum women are eligible at higher incomes)

Can SC Afford to Cover More Adults? **Yes!**

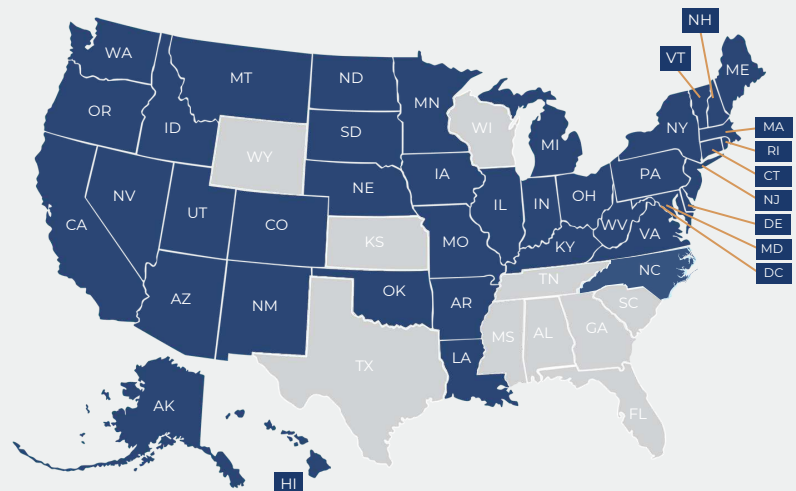
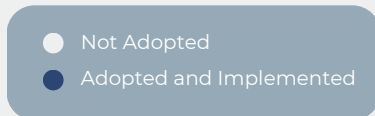
- **345,000 South Carolinians** would gain access to affordable healthcare coverage if we closed the gap
- Under the Affordable Care Act all adults who earn less than \$34,307 (3 person family) would be eligible for Medicaid
- SC would only invest 10% of the total cost (\$356 million) in 2028, using only 2-3% of the state's overall budget.
- The SC investment would bring a **federal 90% match** of \$2.9 billion in 2028
- Additionally, **SC would get a \$904 million** Federal bonus in 2026 and 2027 - **covering 2-3 years** of the annual state cost



Don't Let SC Be Left Behind

40 states and DC have already closed the gap

If South Carolina does not close the healthcare gap, we lose **\$28 BILLION** in federal funds over 10 years to other states.



Most people on Medicaid in the US work, and work hard.

Data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey:

- **61%** of adults insured through Medicaid are employed, many in essential jobs. **6%** are in school or training
- **13%** of those insured are caring for children, family, or other dependents full-time
- **11%** are either too ill or have a disability preventing them from work
- **9%** do not work for other reasons, such as retirement (20% of those benefiting from closing the gap in SC are 55-64) or inability to find work or transportation

Closing the Gap Leads to a Stronger Economy



28,000

new jobs will be created



\$110 MILLION

in new tax revenue

Closing the Gap Improves Health and Family Financial Independence



12%

decrease in mortality
by year four for those
ages 55-64



47%

decrease in
family
medical debt⁷



18%

increase in
access to
diabetes care⁸



31%

more hypertension
controlling
prescriptions written⁹



39%

more cholesterol
lowering
prescriptions written

References

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