



Getting to “Yes” on the Medicaid Expansion

Amanda Ptashkin, JD
Families USA Health Action Conference
Washington, DC
January 31, 2013



Where does Governor Deal stand on the issue?

“As I have indicated, I have rejected the Medicaid expansion in Georgia already, but let me emphasize that the expansion would have put our additional costs over 10 years closer to \$4.5 billion — and that’s operating under the dubious assumption that the federal government, with its ever-growing national debt, would have fulfilled their promised share. The 620,000 new enrollees would have stretched our resources and our state to the limit. But whether the cost to our state would have been \$2 billion, \$4 billion or \$6 billion, it does not make much sense to ask for more hurdles when you are already utilizing every muscle in your state’s body to overcome the ones you currently have before you and that you must face. So unless the federal government changes it to a block grant program and allows Georgia to design the benefit plan, I cannot justify expanding Medicaid.”

-- Governor Deal, GA Chamber of Commerce, Eggs and Issues Breakfast 1/16/13

Cover Georgia

Cover Georgia is a coalition of consumer and patient advocates, providers, and industry stakeholders who have come together around a common goal: covering Georgia's uninsured by expanding Medicaid.



COVER GEORGIA

Workgroups:

Legislative

Community Outreach

Media/Messaging

Workforce

COALITION PARTNERS

9to5 Atlanta

AARP Georgia

Advocates for Responsible Care

American Academy of Pediatrics, Georgia Chapter

American Cancer Society

American College of Physicians, Georgia Chapter

American Diabetes Association

American Heart Association

American Lung Association in Georgia

Center for Black Women's Wellness

Doctors for America, Georgia Chapter

Families First

Feminist Women's Health Center

Georgia Academy of Family Physicians

Georgia Breast Cancer Coalition Fund

Georgia Budget & Policy Institute

Georgia Council on Substance Abuse

Georgia Dental Hygienists' Association

Georgia Equality

Georgia Rural Health Association

Georgia Rural Urban Summit

Georgia Society for Public Health Education

Georgia Supportive Housing Association

Georgia Women for a Change

Georgians for a Healthy Future

HealthCare-NOW Georgia

Grady Health System

The Health Initiative

Health STAT

Hemophilia of Georgia

Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia

Interfaith Children's Movement

League of Women Voters of Georgia

March of Dimes

Mental Health of America of Georgia

Metro Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America

National Domestic Workers Alliance Atlanta Chapter

Partner Up! For Public Health

Planned Parenthood Southeast, Inc.

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Public Policy Advocacy

Partnership

ProActive Management Consulting

Racial Justice Action Center

Scout Communications

Step Up Savannah

St. Joseph's Mercy Care Services

Strategic Partners

Value Options

Voices for Georgia's Children

Younger Women's Task Force of Atlanta

www.coverga.org

COVER GEORGIA

MEDICAID 101

PETITION

TOOLKIT

COALITION PARTNERS

JOIN US



SIGN THE PETITION



GET INVOLVED



GET INVOLVED



Medicaid 101

What is Medicaid? What is the Medicaid Expansion? What does it mean for Georgia? You can find everything you need to know about this issue here.

[Learn More »](#)



Petition

Stand with patients, consumers, providers, advocates, and stakeholders by signing the petition to urge Governor Nathan Deal to Cover Georgia by saying YES to the Medicaid expansion.

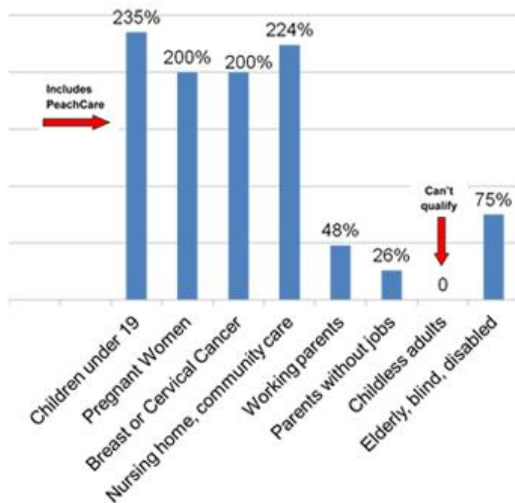
[Sign the Petition »](#)

MEDICAID 101

The Georgia Medicaid program covers 1.7 million people. Changes to eligibility may allow an additional 650,000 Georgians access to the program. Learn more about the consequences of expanding the program or choosing to forgo expansion.

1. What is Medicaid?
2. What is Medicaid expansion?
3. Who pays for Medicaid?
4. If we don't expand, where will these people get coverage?
5. How will the Medicaid expansion help small businesses?
6. What is the overall economic impact of expanding Medicaid in Georgia?
7. Who makes the decision to expand in Georgia?

Georgia Medicaid Income Limits Today

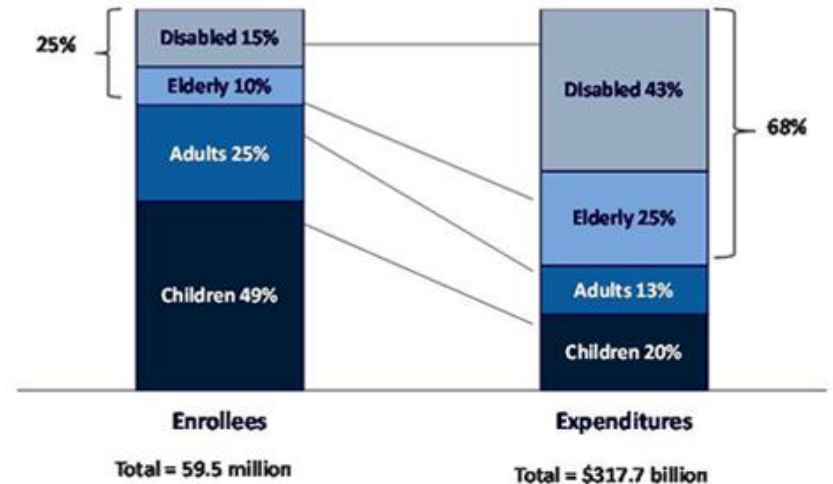


100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) 2012-13

FAMILY SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$11,170
2	\$15,130
3	\$19,090
4	\$23,050



Medicaid Enrollees & Expenditures, 2008





COVER GEORGIA

Find out if you would qualify for low-cost coverage under the expansion



How many family members do you support?	Is your monthly income equal to or less than:
1	\$1,285
2	\$1,740
3	\$2,195
4	\$2,651
(Add \$455 for each additional dependent)	



If the answer is YES, you would likely qualify for low cost health insurance **IF** Georgia expands its Medicaid program.

Help us convince the Governor and our State Legislators to move forward with the Medicaid expansion for thousands of Georgians—Georgians just like you!

Help us make health care more accessible for hundreds of thousands of Georgians. Help us make the case for the Medicaid expansion.

**TO JOIN OUR EFFORTS AND TO LEARN MORE:
Visit www.coverga.org**

We have an unprecedented opportunity to improve the health of Georgia patients and consumers, strengthen our state's health care delivery system, and bolster the state's economy by covering Georgia's uninsured through an expansion of Medicaid. This page will provide you with fact sheets, talking points and other resources you need to help build a case of support for the expansion.

1. Georgia Specific Reports & Fact Sheets
2. Talking Points & Messaging
3. National Resources

Jan		John
55	Age	55
Part-time retail worker	Occupation	Sales manager at hardware store
\$8,840	Annual salary	\$25,000
77 percent	Percent of federal poverty line	217 percent
\$8,495	Expected cost of premium to cover a 55-year-old	\$8,495
NOT AVAILABLE	Subsidies available from Obamacare to purchase insurance	YES
Could be covered by Medicaid if her state takes up the option		Will receive \$6,768 in subsidies to purchase insurance
96	Percent of income necessary to get coverage	6.91

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, "Health Reform Subsidy Calculator," available at <http://healthreform.kff.org/subsidycalculator.aspx?source=QL>. For Jan's scenario, the calculator assumes she will be covered by Medicaid, so the author calculated Jan's premiums as a 55-year-old worker making just above the Medicaid eligibility limit.

TOOL KIT

Medicaid Expansion Would Benefit Georgia Parents and Other Adults Without Insurance

By Timothy Sweeney, Director of Health Policy



10 Reasons the Medicaid Expansion is Good for Women

Prepared by: Erin Armstrong
August 13, 2012

Expansion is a good deal

health STAT
statists | taking action | together
www.healthstatgeorgia.org

Medicaid expansion saves money

- The federal government will cover more than 90% of the cost of expanding Medicaid.
- Expanding Medicaid is a great value. Increasing Georgia's expenditures by less than 1% will give 40% more Georgians access to care.
- If we don't expand Medicaid in Georgia, \$10 billion from Georgia taxpayers will be sent to other states.
- Expanding Medicaid saves money on other state and local programs, including child care, hospital inpatient health services. Counting these savings, Medicaid expansion will save Georgia money.

Medicaid expansion saves hospital

- Caring for the uninsured costs Georgia hospitals, and costs more than \$1.5 billion per year. Expanding Medicaid is needed to help our hospitals stabilize the bottom.
- Starting in 2014, federal law requires the cost of the uninsured will be cut sharply, making it harder for many hospitals to stay open. Expansion will help offset these cuts with new federal money, protecting hospitals so that we all depend.
- Hospital closures affect all Georgians, including those with health insurance.

Medicaid expansion protects Georgia's workforce and improves our economy

- Over the next ten years, expanding Medicaid will add more than \$70 billion to Georgia's economy.
- Georgia businesses depend on healthy workers. Poor health is the most likely reason for missing work, costing the United States \$100 billion per year.
- By expanding Georgia's health, expanding Medicaid will make Georgia a more attractive state for employers, improve our economy, and create jobs.

Medicaid expansion saves lives

- Expanding Medicaid will prevent 1,000 needless Georgia deaths each year (20 percentage points).
- 20% of Georgia adults still lack health insurance, one of the highest rates in the nation.
- 61% of Georgians with incomes below 138% of the federal poverty level are uninsured.
- Expanding Medicaid will extend health care coverage to between 400,000 and 1,000,000 Georgians annually.
- Nearly 100,000 Americans starting Medicaid see that was health insurance.

THE MEDICAID EXPANSION AND PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June 2012 to uphold the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). However, in a disappointing move, the Court ruled that states that do not comply with the ACA's expansion of Medicaid to individuals up to 138% of federal poverty (around \$15,400 per year for an individual) cannot lose federal funding for the entire Medicaid program.¹ If states refuse to comply with the expansion, there could be a large number of the lowest income people left out of reform. This fact sheet was developed to assist HIV advocates with making the case for the Medicaid expansion in their state. Analysis of the implications of the Supreme Court decision by various stakeholders will continue, so regularly check the resources at the end of the fact sheet for the latest news and analyses.



Expansion is a good deal
expansionisagooddeal.tumblr.com

COVER GEORGIA

Petitioning The Governor of GA ▾

Governor Deal: Medicaid Expansion Is A Good Deal For Georgia!

Sign this petition
with 355 supporters

645 NEEDED

First Name

Last Name

Email

Street Address

City

State Outside U.S.?

Zip Code

Why is this important to you?
(Optional)

Sign >

Holly M. ROME, GA

So many put off their health due to no insurance. I was one of them and now I am battling stage 4 Cervical Cancer. I am lucky I qualified for Breast/Cervical Cancer Medicaid Program. While I am grateful I have coverage now... had funding been more available to me for regular screenings & preventative tests, I would have found my cancer in time to truly cure it. Also, I feel that I am more costly to medicaid now than I would have been if this had been found early. Thank you.

Karen M. TUCKER, GA

I have worked with so many working families who do not have access to healthcare due to limited financial resources. I believe that our community's wellbeing could be enhanced significantly by better health outcomes. And put simply, it is the right thing to do for the people of Georgia.

Rachel P. DECATUR, GA

Everyone deserves quality health care!!



COVER GEORGIA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013
9AM - 1PM



**COVER GEORGIA:
Advocate for Expanded
Coverage for Georgia's
Uninsured**

Central Presbyterian Church and State Capitol
201 Washington St. SW; Atlanta, GA 30303

Help us have our voice heard. Help us
Cover Georgia.



QUESTIONS?

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