



ALLIANCE FOR A
HEALTHY KANSAS

KanCare Expansion: Just the Facts

Medicaid expansion is even more crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Every state in the nation is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including Kansas. The spread of the virus has illuminated the cracks in our healthcare system. Kansas has a high rate of uninsurance, which is growing as more people face job loss and the loss of employer-provided health insurance. Unfortunately, it is inevitable that many of those in need will avoid getting care because they can't afford the cost. What's more, if they do seek care, many of the uninsured will go to hospital emergency rooms, putting further stress on an already strained system.

Medicaid has historically served as a critical safety net in times of economic and health crisis. COVID-19 makes it even clearer that we are all in danger if our friends and neighbors can't access the healthcare they need. We need KanCare expansion now more than ever.

- 67% of rural hospitals in Kansas are at risk of closure. Consistently high COVID-19 infection rates in rural communities have pushed rural healthcare systems in the state to the brink. Medicaid expansion results in improved hospital financial performance, improved operating margins, and a lower likelihood of closure, especially in rural communities. Rural hospitals need KanCare expansion.
- Given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and substance use, Medicaid expansion is an even more significant source of coverage for behavioral healthcare. Expansion is strongly associated with improvements in access to care and positive outcomes related to substance use disorder (SUD) and mental healthcare.
- Medicaid expansion saves lives. States that have expanded Medicaid experience significant reductions in overall mortality compared with states that have not expanded Medicaid. Kansans need KanCare expansion, especially as COVID-19 continues to threaten the health of our communities.



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Expand KanCare: How You Can Help

Join the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas at expandkancare.com

To share stories about the coverage gap, email marissa@expandkancare.com, or submit your stories on our website at expandkancare.com/share-your-story.

Sign our petition to urge candidates to support KanCare expansion at expandkancare.com/get-involved.

To volunteer to collect petition signatures or to learn more about how you can be a KanCare expansion advocate, email taylor@expandkancare.com.

Use #ExpandKanCare and #ksleg to promote KanCare expansion on social media.

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/ExpandKanCare/

On Twitter: @ExpandKanCare

On TikTok: @AllianceforaHealthyKS

Reach out to the faith leaders, business leaders, and leaders of community organizations that you know and ask them to join the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas. More info at expandkancare.com/who-we-are.