

## **KanCare Expansion & Veterans: Just the Facts**

Many of the brave individuals who have served our country can face an overwhelming amount of obstacles to comprehensive healthcare services once they're back home. There are strict standards for coverage through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), sometimes including long distances to travel and cost sharing requirements. Veterans can also experience homelessness. Expanding KanCare represents a way to address these barriers and to provide them access to the coverage they deserve.

- Despite their service to our country, 1 in 10 veterans report having no health coverage, including a lack of VA services. In Kansas, more than half of veterans are under the age of 65, putting them at risk of falling in the coverage gap.
- Uninsured veterans are more likely to report poor physical and mental health conditions, lower levels of education, and a lower connection to the workforce.
- Uninsured veterans and their family members report significantly lower access to needed care and higher rates of unmet medical needs, often delaying or avoiding care due to cost concerns
- Nearly half of uninsured veterans have income levels below 138% the federal poverty level (FPL), which would make them eligible for comprehensive coverage through expansion.
- Veterans that gained health coverage in states that implemented Medicaid expansion report improved access to care, are more likely to seek medical care, and have better healthcare outcomes.
- Veterans with current VA coverage, whose annual income is below 138% of the FPL, would qualify for Medicaid, which would supplement their current health care coverage, creating greater access to different services.
- Living in an expansion state was particularly beneficial for veterans in rural areas, who might otherwise have a difficult time accessing the health care they need.
- Veterans continue to be at higher risk of homelessness than the general population. KanCare expansion would provide much needed support, stability and care to homeless veterans.

 Veterans are at higher risk than most for unique and sometimes serious or complicated health care issues as a result of their service, including musculoskeletal conditions, traumatic brain injuries, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Expanding KanCare would ensure that these heroes have access to the quality, affordable health care they deserve.



## **Expand KanCare: How You Can Help**

Join the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas at expandkancare.com

To share stories about the coverage gap, email <a href="mailto:marissa@expandkancare.com">marissa@expandkancare.com</a>, or submit your stories on our website at <a href="mailto:expandkancare.com/share-your-story">expandkancare.com/share-your-story</a>.

Sign our petition to urge candidates to support KanCare expansion at <a href="mailto:expandkancare.com/get-involved">expandkancare.com/get-involved</a>.

To volunteer to collect petition signatures or to learn more about how you can be a KanCare expansion advocate, email <a href="mailto:taylor@expandkancare.com">taylor@expandkancare.com</a>.

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

media. On Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ExpandKanCare/">www.facebook.com/ExpandKanCare/</a>

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.