

# MEDICAID WORKS FOR ARKANSAS

## MEDICAID provides

- Expectant mothers with prenatal care.
- Health coverage to children.
- Nursing home care for seniors.
- Services to people with disabilities.
- Preventive care to detect illness early and avoid costly emergency room visits.



## MEDICAID works for our economy

- Every dollar the state spends on Medicaid creates six for the local economy.\*
- 70,277 full-time jobs were created by Medicaid in 2009 (that's six percent of total state employment).\*
- In 2010, uncompensated care cost Arkansas hospitals \$338 million. Extending health coverage to more Arkansans would reduce this burden for our hospitals.\*\*



## MEDICAID CAN DO MORE

- 25 percent of Arkansans, ages 19-64, are uninsured.
- Arkansas has a new opportunity to ensure a healthy future for more families.
- Adopting the new Medicaid rules could provide coverage to nearly uninsured 250,000 Arkansans.
- The federal government will pick up the tab for the first three years, and, under current law, the state will NEVER pay more than 10 percent.
- Extending Medicaid to those who qualify would save the state \$372,000,000 between 2014 and 2021.\*\*\*

## IN SHARP COUNTY

Population: 17,264

Life Expectancy: 75

## MEDICAID RECIPIENTS

Children With ARKids First/Medicaid: 2,613  
68%

Adults enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare: 1,322

Adults 18-64 with permanent disabilities: 585

## IF ARKANSAS EXTENDS MEDICAID AND IMPLEMENTS THE HEALTH CARE EXCHANGE...

18-64 Uninsured Who Would Qualify For Extended Medicaid (<138% of poverty level) 1,263  
14%

18-64 Uninsured Who Would Qualify For Exchange Subsidies (138% - 400% of poverty level)† 1,171  
13%

†138% - \$15,414 individual, \$31,809 family of four  
400% - \$44,000 individual, \$92,000 family of four

## PROTECT MEDICAID

Cuts to Medicaid mean cuts to people who need vital health care services. Let our leaders know how valuable Medicaid is for Arkansas's most vulnerable citizens.



\*University of Arkansas Sam M. Walton College of Business. (2010). *The Economic Impact of Medicaid Spending in Arkansas*. Last retrieved from <http://www.aradvocates.org/assets/PDFs/walton-Medicaid-impact-report-2010.pdf>.

\*\*Arkansas Hospital Association. <http://www.arkhospitals.org/archive/arkhospmagpdf/AHASummer12.pdf>

\*\*\* <http://talkbusiness.net/2012/07/qa-with-arkansas-medicaid-director-andy-allison/>



## MEDICAID HELPS pregnant women.

Pregnant women are eligible for Medicaid during and immediately following their pregnancy if they earn less than 200% of the poverty level (\$38,000/year for a family of three) and have less than \$3,100 in assets.

*Andrea gets prenatal care so her baby is born healthy.*

## MEDICAID HELPS the disabled.



Children and adults who are permanently disabled (for more than 12 months) who also earn less than \$674/month and have less than \$2000 in assets are eligible for Medicaid.

*Mark was hit by a drunk driver and paralyzed. He depends on Medicaid for healthcare and other things like medications and transportation to his doctor's office. Parents of those with developmental disabilities depend on Medicaid too. Because their kids can attend day programs, parents are able to go to work.*

## MEDICAID HELPS kids, with ARKids First.

Children are eligible for ARKids First if their family earns up to 200% of the poverty line (\$46,000/year for a family of four). Many families are still required to pay co-pays for ARKids coverage.



*Medicaid's ARKids First program means that if Jeremy gets sick or injured, his parents know they'll be able to afford to see a doctor. Thanks to ARKids, the number of uninsured children in the state has dropped from over 20 percent, to just above seven percent.*

## EXTENDING MEDICAID

will help over 250,000 Arkansans.

Currently, a parent with a family of four must earn less than \$3,000 per year, and have less than \$1,000 in assets, to qualify for Medicaid. Adults between 19 and 64 generally don't qualify unless they're pregnant or permanently disabled.

*John and Betty work at their feed store every day but sometimes it's still hard to make ends meet. After the bills are paid there's not enough left for health insurance. Currently, they don't qualify for Medicaid. If they were eligible, they could worry more about keeping their business strong instead of unaffordable doctor bills.*

## MEDICAID HELPS seniors.

Elderly individuals who earn less than \$2,022/month and have less than \$2,000 in assets qualify for placement in nursing homes.

*Ellen has spent her life savings on copays and prescriptions for her Parkinson's disease. If it weren't for Medicaid, she wouldn't be able to make her payments.*

