



Closing North Carolina's Coverage Gap

Jackson County

What is the coverage gap?

Today, thousands of people in Jackson County cannot get health care when they need it because they can't afford health insurance. Many of these people are in the "coverage gap," meaning their incomes are too low to get a subsidy on healthcare.gov, but they don't qualify for Medicaid.

North Carolina can close its coverage gap by allowing these people to enroll in the Medicaid program. Closing the coverage gap means better health, more jobs for the community and more resources to combat the opioid epidemic ravaging our communities.

Impact in Jackson County if North Carolina closes its coverage gap:

1. Closing the coverage gap would expand access to affordable care.

- Approximately 3,299 additional people in Jackson County would gain access to coverage.¹

2. Closing the coverage gap would create local jobs and help the economy.

- 263 new jobs in Jackson County.¹
- \$37,100,000 in Jackson County business activity.¹
- \$445,200 in new county revenue.¹

3. Closing the coverage gap is necessary to fight the opioid crisis.

- Hundreds of uninsured local people with substance use disorders could receive treatment.
- In 2017, there were 7 opioid deaths and 29 emergency department visits for opioid overdose in Jackson County.²
- Opioid deaths in Dayton, Ohio have fallen by 54%, thanks largely to closing coverage gap.
- "Thank God we expanded Medicaid." — **Ohio Gov. John Kasich, 2018**

4. Zero dollars in new state taxes for Jackson families.

- Federal government would pay 90% of costs.
- Remaining 10% would be funded by a small assessment on hospitals and other health care providers.
- "There's no doubt it's been helpful...We've been able to do it to date without a single New Hampshire taxpayer dollar. No state taxes go into it." — **New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, 2017**

¹ Ku, L., Bruen, B & Brantley, E. (2019). The Economic and Employment Costs of Not Expanding Medicaid in North Carolina: A 2019 Update. <https://www.conehealthfoundation.com/foundation/nc-medicaid-expansion/>

² NC Opioid Action Plan Data Dashboard. <https://injuryfreenc.shinyapps.io/OpioidActionPlan/>



**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
CLOSING NORTH CAROLINA'S HEALTH INSURANCE GAP**

WHEREAS, healthy citizens and access to affordable health care are key to the Jackson County economy; and

WHEREAS, closing the health insurance coverage gap would extend insurance to approximately 3,299 uninsured individuals in Jackson County and 750,000 across the entire state; and

WHEREAS, closing the health insurance coverage gap would drive new business and healthcare activity in Jackson County and could create up to 263 new jobs; and

WHEREAS, this particularly benefits small business, healthcare providers, and individuals and supports a thriving economy with healthy productive workforce; and

WHEREAS, federal funding will cover 90% of costs for states closing the health insurance coverage gap to citizens who need access to affordable health insurance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Jackson County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly to close the health insurance coverage gap in North Carolina. This resolution shall be effective on and after its passage and shall be shared with the members of Jackson County's General Assembly delegation.

ADOPTED by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners on the ____ day of _____ 2021.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman