

THE IMPACT OF THE MEDICAID DECISION IN MISSOURI

Why this decision matters to our state's future

The St. Louis Regional Health Commission is excited to share this discussion guide with you to engage in a conversation about the impact of Medicaid on primary care access, rural healthcare, and the economy. This discussion guide and the accompanying video clips seek to guide you through discussions and dialogues with your community, business leaders, healthcare professionals, advocates, faith groups, civic organizations, friends, and family.

To learn more, visit ninenet.org/health.



GETTING STARTED

What is in this guide?

This guide focuses on four key topics and short excerpts from the full-length broadcast, “Health, Money & Politics: Missouri’s Medicaid Debate,” and offers companion questions to foster dialogue and discussions with your community. We encourage conversations in both informal and formal settings.

How to have this conversation via Social Media:

We invite you to share this program and discussion guide via email, Facebook, and Twitter. For example, start a conversation by posting or Tweeting: “If Medicaid is not expanded, how will the 260,000 Missourian’s currently without insurance gain access to healthcare? #MOMedicaid.”

How to host a formal screening:

1. Choose an audience
 - Ideas: nonprofit boards, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, community events, faith gatherings, chambers of commerce
2. Set a date, time, and location
 - Board or staff meetings, supper or book clubs, schools, libraries
 - Confirm the time and date with your venue manager
3. Publicize
 - Spread the word via word of mouth, text, Twitter, email; create an event on Facebook to invite guests
 - Submit an advertisement or press release to your local newspaper or news blog
4. Prepare
 - Watch the video clips, read this guide, and choose the questions and video clips that make sense for your audience.
 - Consider if you would like to make copies of the discussion guide or handouts for your guests.
 - Don’t forget to check equipment, making sure sound and video are working.
 - Note: If you are streaming the video from ninenet.org/health, you will need to make sure there is reliable internet access.
5. Go!
 - We want to hear how it went. If you host a screening, email Rosie Stafford at rstafford@stlrhc.org to share your feedback.

Where can I get the video footage?

Both the full 30-minute program as well as the short excerpts can be streamed or downloaded from ninenet.org/health.



KEY TOPICS

The Impact on Access to Primary Care

We see Dr. Heidi Miller providing care to patients at a local community health center in St. Louis. Dr. Miller discusses how Medicaid expansion has the potential to transform the lives of many of her patients.

Questions:

1. What impact does healthcare coverage have on a person's life? What impact does a lack of coverage have on a person's life?
2. Dr. Miller talks about how a patient's health insurance coverage currently has a major impact on his/her available options for treatment. How does this impact patient care? How does this impact our healthcare system?

If approved by Missouri lawmakers, Medicaid eligibility will extend from the current level of \$3,504¹ to \$26,344 in annual income for a family of three.

Under current law, Missouri hospitals and health centers currently receiving Disproportionate Share Hospital funds will lose \$3.3 billion over seven years,² regardless of what happens with the Missouri Medicaid decision.

3. Dr. Miller speaks to the financial benefits of preventative medicine in maintaining a healthy workforce and preventing costly emergency care. What are the implications of a lack of preventative coverage? For an uninsured Missourian, what resources are available for access to consistent healthcare?

¹Cover Missouri: "[Medicaid Basics 2011.](#)" 2011.

²Missouri Hospital Association: "[Hospitals and Missouri's Economy: A White Paper Submitted by the Missouri Hospital Association to the Missouri Department of Economic Development.](#)" October 2010.



The Impact on Healthcare in Rural Missouri

We travel to Salem, a rural community in south central Missouri, to see how the state’s decision on Medicaid would impact this town where a major industry and central resource for medical care is Salem Memorial District Hospital.

Questions:

1. Salem Hospital administrator Dennis Pryor and practicing physician Dr. Vicky Gulley recognize the hospital as a central provider of healthcare services and jobs in the community. What will it mean for Salem and other communities like it throughout Missouri if the only local hospital closes? What will a hospital closure mean for the local economy?

There are currently 267,000 Missourians without health insurance (1 out of every 8 individuals).²

2. Regardless of Missouri’s decision to expand Medicaid, hospitals in the state will endure large cuts to their budgets from funds that were previously used to cover the cost of care for the uninsured, \$3.3 billion over seven years, according to the Missouri Hospital Association.¹ What are the implications of these planned budget cuts if

Medicaid is not expanded in Missouri?

3. What options do you see for small rural communities to preserve access to healthcare if Medicaid is not expanded?
4. Dr. Vicky Gulley explains that many of the residents in Salem work in the retail industry, such as at Walmart, and do not receive healthcare benefits. How does this impact your perception of an individual who is uninsured?

Rural Missourians are at a particular risk of being uninsured because small employers are less likely to offer health insurance and many employers offer primarily part time employment without benefits.

¹Missouri Hospital Association: [“Hospitals and Missouri’s Economy: A White Paper Submitted by the Missouri Hospital Association to the Missouri Department of Economic Development.”](#)October 2010.

²Cover Missouri. [“What’s at Stake.”](#)



The Impact on the Economy

Steven Lipstein, President of BJC Healthcare (the largest private employer in the State of Missouri), explains that the Medicaid decision is also about job creation and economic preservation for the State. Governor Nixon also describes Medicaid expansion as an economic stimulus. State Senator John Lamping (R – Ladue) explains that the disagreement about Medicaid expansion stems not from a disagreement that all Missourians need access to high quality healthcare but from a disagreement about how to pay for it.

Questions:

1. Economic figures in a recent University of Missouri study¹ indicate that accepting the Medicaid expansion would generate more than 24,000 jobs and an estimated \$1.56 billion in new federal healthcare funds for the state’s economy in 2014. What long-term economic potential does Medicaid transformation have for Missouri?
2. If Missouri does not choose to expand Medicaid, over 9,000 jobs would be lost.² What impact would this have on our state’s economy and healthcare system?
3. State Senator Lamping discusses opposition to expanding Medicaid coverage citing a lack of confidence in the ability of the federal government to honor its contractual obligation to pay its share of Medicaid expansion. What potential future costs could Medicaid expansion bring for Missouri?

For more information on the issue, check out:

- Nine Network
<http://ourregionshealth.net.org/>
- Missouri Foundation for Health
<http://www.mffh.org/>
- Cover Missouri
<http://www.covermissouri.org/>

Where do I go from here?

1. What did you learn from this program and discussion?
2. Do you think there is misinformation in the larger debate about Medicaid expansion? If so, what is that misinformation?
3. Opponents of the expansion say Missouri cannot afford the expansion and supporters say Missouri cannot afford not to expand Medicaid. What do you think Missouri has at stake?

¹University of Missouri School of Medicine, Department of Health Management and Informatics and Dobson DaVanzo & Associates, LLC, Vienna VA: [“The Economic Impacts of Medicaid Expansion on Missouri.”](#) November 2012.

² Missouri Hospital Association. [“How Does a \\$4 billion loss Affect Missouri? Why Medicaid Reform is Essential.”](#)

