

CO-MEC Central Ohio Medicaid Expansion Coalition

Medicaid Expansion Talking Points

Core Message: “We can’t afford not to extend Medicaid to more Ohioans. We will be making a smart investment in Ohio families, our state’s economy and workforce. Hard working people need the security of affordable health care so they can keep themselves and their families healthy, keep their jobs, start new businesses, ensure that their kids can thrive and be successful. Expansion will bring billions of our tax dollars back to the state to pay for our priorities and grow our local economy.

1. Expanding Medicaid is a good deal for our state. It’s a smart investment that saves dollars and is good for our bottom line.

- The Federal government pays 100% of costs for newly eligible Ohioans for the first 3 years, gradually decreasing to 90% starting in 2020.
- It will bring over \$20 billion in federal funding into Ohio. Let’s bring back our tax dollars to pay for our state’s priorities.

2. Medicaid Expansion will improve the health of Ohioans.

- It will extend coverage to over 275,000 Ohioans in the first two years.
- Families with health insurance will stay healthy by receiving regular preventive care, instead of seeking crisis care in hospital emergency rooms. Healthy workers strengthen Ohio’s economy and a healthy, productive workforce is vital to position Ohio as a top tier business location.
- Medicaid Expansion provides the single largest investment in mental health and addiction treatment services, \$105 million over two years. Funding supportive services like housing and employment to support recovery.

3. Medicaid Expansion helps our economy. A healthier more productive workforce leads to a growing state economy, more local jobs and a vibrant future.

- The expansion will bring in billions in federal funding that will spur growth and create jobs in many local industries – from medical services to construction to small businesses such as restaurants and convenience stores and other service sectors.

4. Failure to expand will have negative consequences

- **For Hospitals:** Many of our state’s hospitals rely on Medicaid dollars to provide essential services and equipment, such as state-of-the-art NICUs and professional development training to doctors and nurses. Without Medicaid, hospitals will be forced to absorb all the costs for treating the uninsured – causing some hospitals, especially those in rural areas, to close.
- **For Taxpayers:** Failure to do the Medicaid Expansion will leave a \$404 million hole in the budget which taxpayers will have to pick up.

5. Everyone wins. Implementation of the Medicaid expansion is the best choice for Ohio, our citizens, our economy, and our future.