

# Better Care. Better Health. Better Mississippi.

## What is the "Coverage Gap?"

The coverage gap refers to when someone is working hard but not making enough to afford private insurance and making too much to qualify for Medicaid.

With rising costs impacting every Mississippian, protecting and expanding Medicaid is an investment in a healthier, more prosperous future for our state. Medicaid expansion is a common sense solution to support hardworking individuals in the coverage gap, like many farmers, veterans and small business owners. It helps stabilize rural hospitals, which are the backbone of our communities, providing critical care and supporting jobs. Medicaid expansion keeps taxpayer dollars in Mississippi, reduces the burden of covering uninsured residents, and brings billions in federal funding back to our state to support our families and economy.

### Small Business Owners:



Many small business owners and self-employed workers fall into the coverage gap. Protecting and expanding Medicaid offers them a safety net while they grow their businesses. It helps them stay healthy and keep working. In rural areas, access to healthcare keeps businesses running and families stable.

### Mississippi Taxpayers:



Mississippi is already paying federal taxes that fund Medicaid expansion -- just in other states. By protecting and expanding Medicaid, we can bring billions of federal tax dollars back home to benefit our people instead of losing that money to places like California or New York. Fiscal responsibility means using the resources we've already paid for.

### Rural Communities:



Mississippians deserve access to healthcare without having to drive hours to the nearest hospital. Residents across every part of our state can't regularly see a primary physician or a medical specialist. Medicaid expansion keeps care local and reliable.

### Rural Hospitals:



Mississippi should have a world class health system to serve its residents and to draw businesses, opportunities and prosperity. When rural hospitals close, it doesn't just hurt healthcare, it devastates local economies. Protecting and expanding Medicaid provides the funding many of these vital institutions need to stay open, ensuring life-saving care remains available in emergencies.

### Mississippi Farmers:



Farmers face unique risks and challenges every day. Medicaid expansion ensures they can access preventative care and stay healthy to provide for their families and our state. Medicaid expansion provides stability for the Mississippi's farmers and rural workers who fuel our economy.

### Mississippi Veterans:



Military insurance covers only military personnel and their families who are serving active duty or who have retired after serving an entire career. TRICARE military insurance does not cover veterans who leave the military prior to retirement, and not all veterans are eligible for general health services from the VA. Medicaid expansion can help ensure no veteran is left behind on health care.

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Without Medicaid, Mississippi is leaving billions of federal dollars on the table. This is money that could help our families, businesses, farmers, veterans and hospitals. More at: [heartpowered.org/campaigns/bettermississippi](http://heartpowered.org/campaigns/bettermississippi)