

# South Carolina's Medicaid Coverage Gap

Many South Carolinians are living without access to affordable health coverage. They can't get insurance through their jobs, can't afford private health insurance, and make **"too much"** to qualify for Healthy Connections Medicaid. They live in what is called the **"Medicaid coverage gap."**

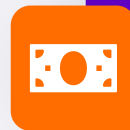
Because South Carolina hasn't expanded Medicaid, 141,000 residents are left without access to affordable health insurance – and without the care they need.<sup>1</sup>



**40 states have expanded Medicaid. South Carolina has not – and South Carolina's families are paying the price.**

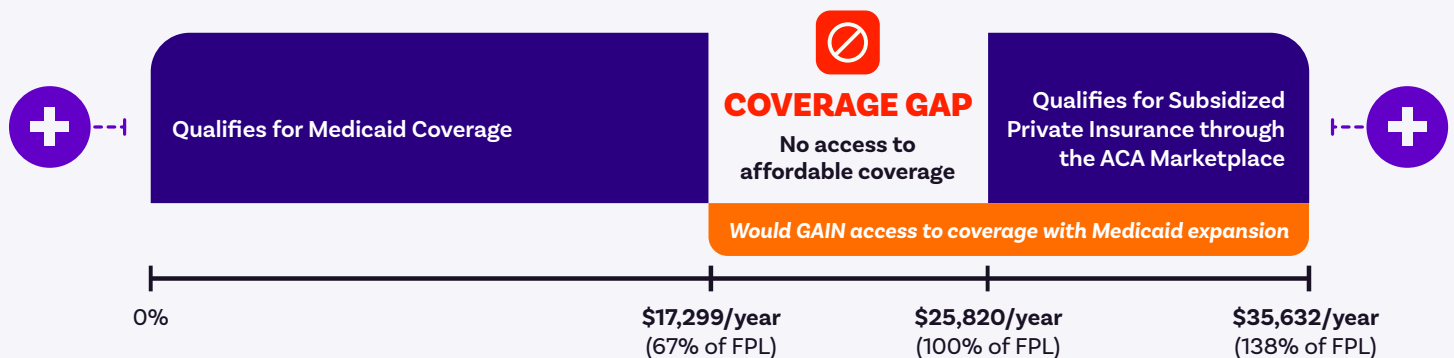


**In South Carolina, a family of three making \$17,300 a year makes "too much" to qualify for Medicaid.<sup>2</sup>**



**South Carolinians over the age of 18 without children NEVER QUALIFY for Healthy Connections Medicaid.**

## South Carolina's Medicaid Coverage Gap



*\*Data based on a family of three<sup>2</sup> FPL = Federal Poverty Level*

**Many South Carolinians don't get health insurance through their jobs, even though these jobs are vital to our state's economy.**



**5,000**  
construction workers<sup>2</sup>



**12,000**  
restaurant and food service workers<sup>2</sup>

## People who have affordable health insurance can:



Get regular check-ups and preventive screenings to stay healthy.



Get the medications they've been prescribed to manage their health.

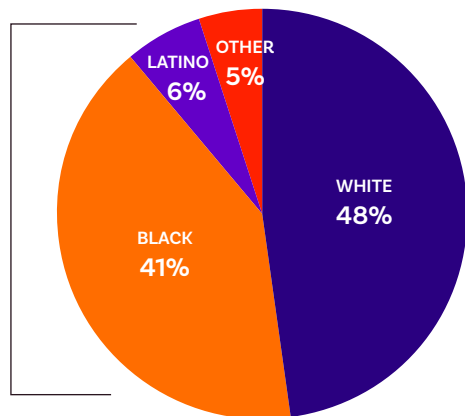


Treat chronic conditions so they can stay healthy and remain in the workforce.

## We cannot achieve our vision of health equity without closing the Medicaid coverage gap.

Black and brown residents disproportionately fall into the Medicaid coverage gap.<sup>1</sup>

Race & Ethnicity Breakdown of South Carolina's Medicaid Coverage Gap



52% are people of color<sup>2</sup>

## Where you live should not impact whether you can get healthcare.

The Medicaid coverage gap is contributing to **our rural healthcare crisis**. Our hospitals are shutting down at an alarming rate. Expanding Medicaid strengthens our rural hospitals and ensures they stay open — creating good paying jobs and providing critical care in our rural communities.



## Medicaid expansion is good for South Carolina's state economy.

The federal government will cover 90% of the cost of expanding Medicaid. These federal funds would allow South Carolina to expand affordable health coverage to those who need it, build a healthier workforce, keep rural hospitals open, and grow our economy.<sup>1</sup>

**141,000 South Carolinians are being left behind without access to affordable health coverage. It's time to expand Medicaid and close the gap.**

<sup>1</sup>Drake, P., Tolbert, J., Rudowitz, R., & Damico, A. (2024, February 26). How Many Uninsured Are in the Coverage Gap and How Many Could be Eligible if All States Adopted the Medicaid Expansion? [www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/how-many-uninsured-are-in-the-coverage-gap-and-how-many-could-be-eligible-if-all-states-adopted-the-medicaid-expansion/](https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/how-many-uninsured-are-in-the-coverage-gap-and-how-many-could-be-eligible-if-all-states-adopted-the-medicaid-expansion/)

<sup>2</sup>The Medicaid Coverage Gap: State Fact Sheets. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2024). [www.cbpp.org/research/health/the-medicaid-coverage-gap](https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/the-medicaid-coverage-gap)