

## BACKGROUNDER

# HOW A MEDICAID EXPANSION BALLOT MEASURE BENEFITS MISSOURI

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Medicaid expansion ensures that no one will have to choose between paying for life-saving care and putting food on the table or making a mortgage payment to keep their home. It ensures that hardworking Missourians who earn less than \$18,000 a year will have access to heart medicine, cancer treatments, and other medical care.
- Medicaid expansion brings more than \$1 billion of our tax dollars back from Washington every year.<sup>i</sup> That's money 36 other states get but Missouri has lost out on for years.<sup>ii</sup> Bringing our tax dollars home will keep rural hospitals open, create thousands of jobs, and ensure all Missourians have access to healthcare no matter where they live.
- Missourians have waited nearly a decade to solve this problem and bring that money back from Washington, and we can't afford to wait any longer. This ballot measure lets Missouri voters decide what's best, and it ensures politicians respect the will of the people.
- Medicaid expansion will make our families healthier and our economy stronger. It will provide healthcare to more than 230,000 hardworking Missourians<sup>iii</sup> — including 50,000 parents and 18,000 near-retirees — and it will bring our money home from Washington to boost our local economy, keep rural hospitals open, and create thousands of new jobs.

## DELIVERS HEALTHCARE TO MISSOURIANS WHO HAVE JOBS WITHOUT INSURANCE AND CAN'T AFFORD TO SEE A DOCTOR

Too many Missouri families are slipping through the cracks in our healthcare system — forced to choose between paying for lifesaving care and putting food on the table or making a mortgage payment to keep their home. These families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid and not enough to be able to afford coverage on the health insurance exchange.<sup>iv</sup>

Medicaid expansion closes that coverage gap and ensures that hardworking Missourians will have access to affordable healthcare. It helps people nearing retirement who have lost their insurance, people with chronic medical conditions, and Missourians who earn less than \$18,000 a year. Medicaid expansion would provide healthcare to more than 230,000 Missourians, many of whom work for small businesses that don't offer employee coverage.<sup>v</sup>

## BRINGS OUR TAX DOLLARS HOME FROM WASHINGTON, D.C., TO CREATE THOUSANDS OF JOBS, KEEP RURAL HOSPITALS OPEN, AND BOOST OUR ECONOMY

Helping our neighbors access healthcare is not only the right thing to do — it's also the financially responsible thing too. Medicaid expansion would bring more than a billion of our tax dollars home from Washington, D.C., every year. That's money that 36 other states get right now but Missouri has lost out on for years.

By bringing our tax dollars home, we'll provide healthcare to more than 230,000 people, keep rural hospitals open, and create thousands of new jobs. And the new money spent in our state will boost our economy too — something that will help our businesses and all Missourians.

## LETS MISSOURI VOTERS DECIDE

This ballot measure lets Missourians decide what's best. We've waited nearly a decade for a healthcare solution, and we've watched while 36 other states have taken action to bring their tax dollars back from Washington and help people get medical care. Now, it's our turn to decide.

Missourians need to collect more than 172,000 signatures from registered voters to put Medicaid expansion on the ballot in November. We're already more than halfway there!

## KEEPS RURAL HOSPITALS OPEN

For years, our state has left billions of our tax dollars in Washington, ignoring the healthcare needs of rural communities. Since 2014 alone, 10 rural hospitals in Missouri have shuttered their doors and closed for good,<sup>vi</sup> forcing people to drive longer distances to reach a hospital when suffering from a heart attack or another medical emergency.<sup>vii</sup> By bringing our money home, we can deliver healthcare to Missourians who have lower-paying jobs that don't come with insurance, and we can protect rural healthcare for everyone in our state.

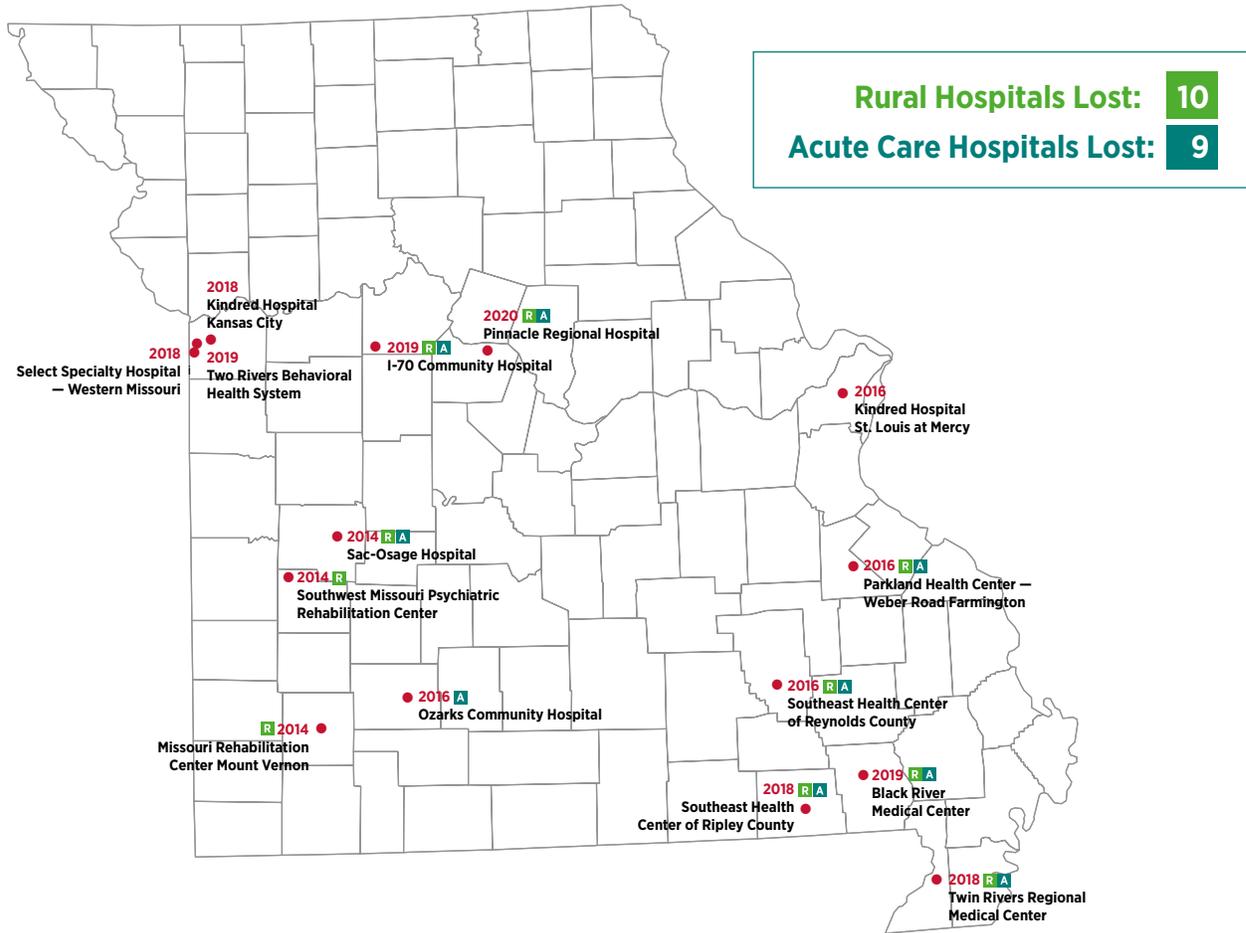
## SAVES US MONEY

Medicaid expansion will save Missouri more than \$1 billion annually because we're *already* paying for it. We're just not getting the benefits right now — benefits that include bringing our tax dollars home from Washington every year, creating thousands of jobs, and boosting our economy.<sup>viii</sup>

Currently, we pay for healthcare in the most expensive way possible. When Missouri families who can't afford health insurance end up in the emergency room to treat a life-threatening condition, we often end up footing the bill through state and local taxes and higher insurance premiums. By expanding Medicaid, we can fix that and eliminate duplicative programs too. We can get Missourians access to care and save money at the same time.<sup>ix</sup>

# 15 Hospital Closures in Missouri

Since 2014



- **Southwest Missouri Psychiatric Rehab Center**, El Dorado Springs, in 2014 **R**
- **Sac-Osage Hospital**, Osceola, in 2014 **RA**
- **Missouri Rehabilitation Center**, Mount Vernon, in 2014 **R**
- **Parkland Health Center**, Farmington, in 2016 **RA**
- **Southeast Health Center of Reynolds County**, Ellington, in 2016 **RA**
- **Ozarks Community Hospital**, Springfield, in 2016 **A**
- **Kindred Hospital St. Louis at Mercy**, St. Louis, in 2016
- **Kindred Hospital Kansas City**, in 2018
- **Select Specialty Hospital – Western Missouri**, Kansas City (non-member), in 2018
- **Twin Rivers Regional Medical Center**, Kennett, in 2018 **RA**
- **Southeast Health Center of Ripley County**, Doniphan, in 2018 **RA**
- **Two Rivers Behavioral Health System**, Kansas City, in 2019
- **Black River Medical Center**, Poplar Bluff, in 2019 **RA**
- **I-70 Community Hospital**, Sweet Springs, in 2019 **RA**
- **Pinnacle Regional Hospital**, Boonville, in 2020 **RA**

<sup>1</sup> <https://publichealth.wustl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Analysis-of-the-Fiscal-Impact-of-Medicaid-Expansion-in-Missouri-IPH.pdf>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/status-of-state-medicaid-expansion-decisions-interactive-map/>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicaid/>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicaid/>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work-what-does-the-data-say/>

<sup>1</sup> Missouri Hospital Association data.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.columbiainmissourian.com/news/state\\_news/for-rural-missourians-access-to-quality-health-care-is-a/article\\_b0b1abe8-8bc9-11e9-a6f9-83546412207d.html](https://www.columbiainmissourian.com/news/state_news/for-rural-missourians-access-to-quality-health-care-is-a/article_b0b1abe8-8bc9-11e9-a6f9-83546412207d.html)

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.missourinet.com/2014/02/21/state-agency-says-medicaid-expansion-would-create-nearly-24k-jobs-402-million-in-revenue/>

<sup>1</sup> <https://publichealth.wustl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Analysis-of-the-Fiscal-Impact-of-Medicaid-Expansion-in-Missouri-IPH.pdf>