THE HEALTHY ALASKA PLAN

Medicaid expansion — Saves Alaska money. Saves Alaska lives.

healthy for Alaskans;

healthy for the economy;

healthy for the state's budget;

a catalyst for reform.

Medicaid expansion provides thousands of Alaskans the opportunity to get the health care they need. Federal Medicaid dollars will generate jobs and economic activity in our state, save the state money, and provide a catalyst for Medicaid reform for Alaska.

GOOD FOR ALASKANS

Nearly 42,000 Alaskans between ages 19 and 64 will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. An expected 20,000 will sign up the first year.

Here's who would be eligible:

- Single adults earning up to $20,314 a year or less — that's $9.76 an hour based on a 40-hour work week
- Married couples earning up to a combined income of $27,490 a year or less.

Expanding Medicaid coverage

- Cuts the number of uninsured Alaskans by half,
- Improves access to preventive and primary care,
- Improves access to substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and
- Saves lives.

GOOD FOR ALASKA'S ECONOMY

Studies project that Medicaid expansion will bring more than $1 billion in new federal money to Alaska over the first five years. That means Alaska would gain:

- 4,000 new jobs,
- $1.2 billion in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans,
- $2.5 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state, and
- Fewer lost work days and less employee turnover.

Expanding Medicaid will bring Alaska tax dollars back to Alaska. It could help stabilize rising insurance premiums and medical prices by reducing uncompensated care that health providers currently provide to Alaskans with no insurance coverage.

Learn more about the Healthy Alaska Plan at:

dhss.alaska.gov/healthyalaska

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GOOD FOR ALASKA'S BUDGET

Expanding Medicaid reduces the state's budget. Federal funds will pay for some health services currently paid for with state funds. State savings are estimated at $6.1 million the first year.

Federal funds pay for 100 percent of expansion costs through 2016 and transition to 90 percent in 2020. Savings to the state will offset its share of the costs.

Federal financing of Medicaid expansion:

Calendar year	Federal match rate
2014-2016	100%
2017	95%
2018	94%
2019	93%
2020 and beyond	90%

The state's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90 percent match.

The state currently pays virtually 100 percent of the health costs for Alaskans in our corrections system. Through Medicaid expansion, we will be able to bill some inmate health care costs to federal Medicaid, saving the state an estimated $4 to $7 million annually.

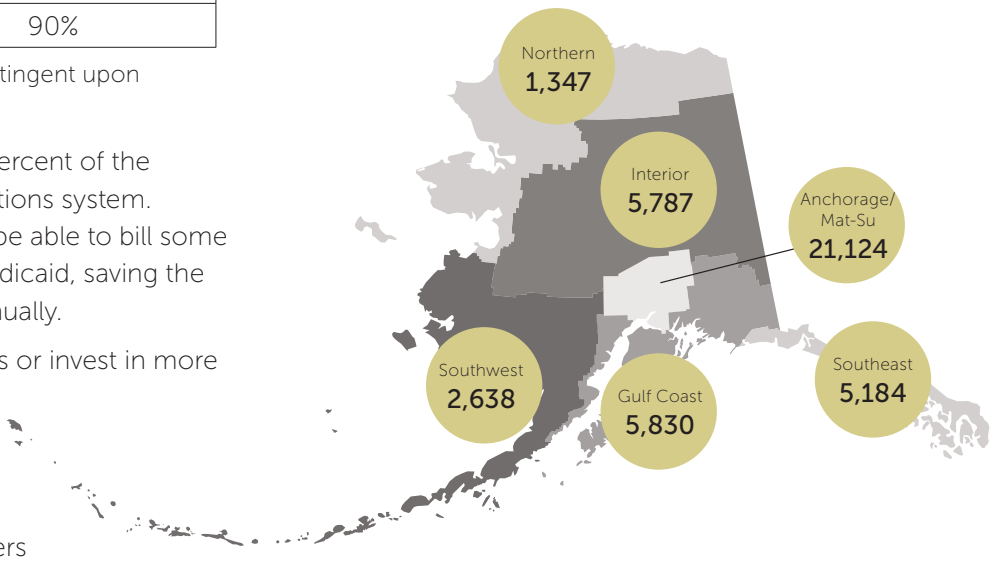
The state can invest in healthy Alaskans or invest in more prisons. Alaska's *2015 Recidivism Reduction Plan* states that Medicaid expansion provides substance abuse treatment and other critical health care services that help keep ex-prisoners out of jail.

A CATALYST FOR REFORM

Some Medicaid reforms are already underway. Leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is our biggest opportunity to finance our reform efforts. The state will redesign Medicaid through a plan that makes sense for Alaska by evaluating options like:

- Payment reform
- Strengthened primary care
- Care management
- Workforce innovation
- Maximizing federal matching fund opportunities
- Improved telehealth capability

Nearly 42,000 Alaskans would be eligible for Medicaid after expansion:



* Projected Population, Enrollment, Service Cost and Demographics of Medicaid Expansion Beginning in FY2016, A memorandum prepared by Evergreen Economics for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

** Fiscal and Economic Impacts of Medicaid Expansion in Alaska, A report prepared by Northern Economics for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium