



Healthy Oklahomans

BACKGROUND

All Oklahomans deserve affordable, quality health care, and Oklahoma voters chose to make that a priority when they voted to expand Medicaid in June 2020. This choice will extend health coverage to 200,000 low-income working-age parents and other adults. It will particularly benefit Oklahomans of color, which is a good first step towards improving equitable health outcomes in our state. It will also improve coverage rates for children and help ensure all Oklahoma children have the chance to thrive. As Medicaid expansion returns federal tax dollars to our state, the economy will get a substantial and ongoing investment: Oklahomans in every county will benefit from job creation, new tax revenue, and increased economic impact.



However, these significant investments in health, equity, children, and the economy will be jeopardized without a fully funded and efficient implementation of Medicaid expansion. The Legislature is constitutionally mandated to fund expansion. Many expansion funding options exist that would not diminish funding for the state's core services or require new taxes. Legislators should move to ensure that Medicaid expansion administration continues in the historically efficient and effective manner that has served Oklahomans for decades. State leaders can best serve Oklahomans by ensuring a comprehensive and well-funded Medicaid expansion.

SOLUTIONS

- Fully fund Medicaid expansion without taking from other public services or harming low-income Oklahomans.
- Halt the implementation of privatized managed care, which would allow the continuation of Oklahoma's historically efficient and effective Medicaid administration.

Become An Advocate

Making change happen will require Oklahomans from all walks of life to advocate with lawmakers and speak out in their communities. OK Policy has resources available on our website or connect with Together Oklahoma (TOK), our statewide grassroots advocacy coalition.



For links to additional information visit us online at

www.okpolicy.org



2021 POLICY PRIORITIES



HEALTHY OKLAHOMANS

- Fully fund Medicaid expansion without taking from other public services or harming low-income Oklahomans.
- Halt the implementation of privatized managed care, which would allow the continuation of Oklahoma's historically efficient and effective Medicaid administration.



THRIVING FAMILIES

- Create a state minimum wage that grows to at least \$15 per hour and keeps up with inflation; allow cities and counties to set their own minimum wages.
- Adopt a statewide insurance program to make paid family and medical leave available to all workers and the self-employed.
- Gradually increase the state Earned Income Tax Credit while make it fully refundable starting with tax year 2020.
- Shape the state's budget and tax systems so that Oklahoma can make meaningful, sustained investments in public services that provide equal opportunities for all residents to thrive.



SAFE COMMUNITIES

- Fund criminal courts and court services through appropriated revenue so that Oklahoma's courts are not reliant on fines and fees from low-income families.
- End the destructive practice of driver's license suspensions for failure to pay court fines and fees for non-driving infractions.
- Increase investment in treatment and resources so more Oklahomans can get the help they need rather than be funneled into Oklahoma's prisons and jails.
- Reform the cash bail system, including consideration of a defendant's parenting and caregiver status before assigning bail or detaining them pre-trial.



For links to additional information visit us online at

www.okpolicy.org