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## The Healthy Montana Plan

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The Healthy Montana Plan is an innovative, uniquely-Montana alternative that will expand Medicaid coverage, reduce health care costs, and increase access to quality health care across Montana.

Modelled after Montana's highly-popular and successful initiative to expand health coverage to children, the Healthy Montana Plan will competitively contract with an insurer to provide healthcare through a private provider network at negotiated rates. The Healthy Montana Kids plan has used this model successfully in Montana for nearly a decade. This kind of contract is known as a "third party administrator," or TPA.

### What Is Unique About the Healthy Montana Plan?

Until now, other expansion states have focused primarily on one of two delivery models: "pure" Medicaid expansion and the "private option." The Healthy Montana Plan takes the best of these models and creates a truly unique solution that maximizes access to care, increases efficiencies in our health care system, and implements meaningful reform, by:

- Using a broad private provider network and negotiated payment structure. This model ensures that providers will be available to treat the new population while maintaining the fiscal viability of the plan.
- Accessing innovative private sector programs to improve patient outcomes and lower costs so that patients get the right care, at the right time, in the right place.
- Requiring payment and delivery reforms for the existing Medicaid program through targeted care management and coordination for chronically ill, high risk, high cost patients.
- Creating a mandatory, multipronged fraud and abuse reporting system.
- Ensuring that if the federal share of the cost of the Healthy Montana Plan drops below 90%, coverage will terminate.

### Health Care and Reform Shouldn't Be a Partisan Issue

Across the nation, Democrats and Republicans alike have agreed that expanding Medicaid is the right thing to do. Conservative governors like Chris Christie in New Jersey and Jan Brewer in Arizona have expanded Medicaid in their states. Business leaders and chambers of commerce across this state have embraced expansion, knowing that Montana taxpayers are paying for it anyway. Through the Healthy Montana Plan, Montana will join the majority of states - both "red" and "blue" - in accepting federal funds to increase access to health care.

## Why Medicaid Expansion?

### It's the right thing to do for hard-working Montanans.

- **Working Families.** A single mom with one child working full time at minimum wage makes about \$15,000 per year, cannot afford private insurance and does not qualify for a subsidy on the exchange. Tens of thousands of working Montanans work hard to make ends meet but don't have access to health care. Under the Healthy Montana Plan, health care coverage will be available to people who earn a combined income of less than \$13.00/hr for a family of three or \$7.75/hr for an individual.
- **Veterans and Military Families.** Montana has the highest percentage of uninsured veterans in the nation. The Healthy Montana Plan will provide coverage to over 9,000 veterans and their family members.
- **Increases Low-Cost Preventive Care.** Approximately 165,000 Montanans do not have health insurance. The Healthy Montana Plan will mean more Montanans get access to the preventative care they need, like annual exams and cancer screenings.
- **Reduces Bankruptcies.** Medical debt is the leading cause of bankruptcy. By offering coverage to the thousands of working Montanans without health care coverage, the Healthy Montana Plan will reduce medical bankruptcies and protect families from financial ruin.

### It's the economically responsible thing to do.

- **Keeps Montana Taxpayer Dollars at Home.** Medicaid expansion is the sensible thing to do. Federal funding is available to pay 100% of the costs of expansion for the first three years, with tax dollars Montanans are already paying. Either we use our tax dollars here, or they will go to provide healthcare for individuals in states that have expanded, like New Jersey, California, and Arizona.
- **Saves State Dollars.** The plan will allow Montana to dramatically reduce the need for state funding for several existing programs that provide services to uninsured people with mental health needs and substance abuse problems. It also will allow the use of federal funds to pay the state's obligation to provide acute hospital care to incarcerated individuals.
- **Economic Competitiveness.** With neighboring states like Wyoming, North Dakota and Utah either having already expanded Medicaid or moving closer towards that goal, Montana is at a competitive disadvantage when businesses are seeking a new home or a place to grow.

### It affects all Montanans.

- **The Cost of Uncompensated Care.** All Montanans are affected by the uninsured. People with private insurance or employers who pay for health benefits currently pay a hidden subsidy to health care providers created by the high cost of uncompensated care provided to those without health care coverage. The Healthy Montana Plan reduces that cost-shifting. If we don't utilize the available funds to benefit citizens in our state, Montana will continue to face escalating costs to treat the uninsured as the federal government phases out grants and other funds previously provided to health care providers to mitigate the cost of uncompensated care.