

## Finally! Expansion of Medicaid in North Carolina



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# New RURAL PROJECT



**Dear Steve:**

This week, Medicaid expansion became a reality in North Carolina! Thirteen years to the day after the Affordable Care Act was signed into law by President Barack Obama, the NC General Assembly finally approved this important legislation. Next, the bill will be sent to Governor Roy Cooper, a long-time expansion advocate, who has said he would sign it into law. As we've mentioned before, 600,000 North Carolinians (over 40,000 in our seven focus counties) will be eligible to receive essential healthcare services once the implementation is rolled out, bringing an estimated \$3.2 billion in Federal dollars into North Carolina.

The bill doesn't indicate a start date for the expansion, and the Republican majority inserted a caveat that it can't start until after the state budget is approved, but we will celebrate the fact that once Medicaid expansion is implemented, thousands of our rural residents will have access to preventative care and medical testing that had been out of reach for many of them.

This expansion will also bring jobs, attract new businesses, and help improve rural economic conditions because access to healthcare is a necessary tool for economic development, especially in rural areas. Healthy people work and healthy workers bring home paychecks, spending money in their communities and helping local businesses thrive.

If you want to learn about some of the ways Medicaid expansion will help North Carolina residents, especially those in rural areas, please watch our "[Urgent Conversations: Let's Talk About Medicaid Expansion](#)" webinar.



This timely discussion was moderated by NRP's **Program Director, Alexa Roberts**, and features **Dr. Karen L. Smith, MD, FAAFP** from Hoke County and **NC House District 73 Rep. Diamond Staton-Williams, RN, BSN, MHA**.

We hope you get a chance to enjoy this beautiful spring weekend and as always, thank you for your support.

In gratitude,

**The New Rural Project Team**

### HELP SUPPORT OUR WORK

**P.S.** There's still time to sign up for our phone bank next week. Join us virtually on **Thursday, March 30, 2023, beginning at 6:00 PM, as we phone bank** to reach out to thousands of rural citizens who have been removed from the voter registration rolls during the State Board of Election's routine purge. Help us ensure that these voters have the information they need to restore their right to vote - all you need is a phone, a computer/tablet with WiFi access, and a change-maker attitude.

[Register here to join us!](#)



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