



Priorities for Oklahoma

EXPAND HEALTH COVERAGE

“ We just turned away additional money that could’ve generated billions of dollars of economic growth in this state. From an anti-poverty perspective, that was a mistake. From an economic development perspective, it was an incredible mistake. It was an incredible opportunity that was wasted. Healthier and wealthier? Apparently not in Oklahoma.”

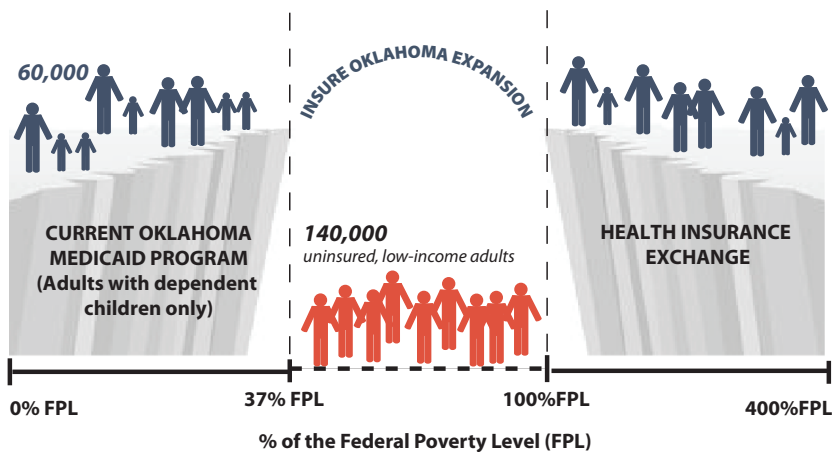
-Mickey Hepner, Dean of the UCO College of Business, on Oklahoma’s refusal to accept billions in federal funds for expanding health coverage.

Oklahomans get sicker, die sooner, and go without much needed health care at some of the highest rates in the nation.

- **One in five Oklahomans are uninsured.** They often go without basic care like vaccinations and cancer screening until it becomes an emergency.
- **Going uninsured creates huge financial risk.** Half of all bankruptcies in the US are caused by medical debt.

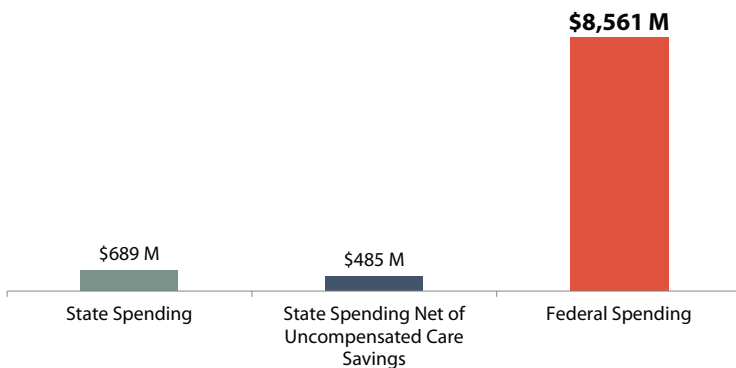
Insure Oklahoma Expansion Bridges the Gap

If Oklahoma chooses not to expand Insure Oklahoma, thousands of Oklahomans will fall into a coverage crater—unable to enroll in Medicaid or Insure Oklahoma and barred from getting tax credits to buy coverage in the new health insurance exchange.



The benefits of expanding coverage far outweigh the costs.

Total Federal and Oklahoma Spending with Coverage Expansion, 2013-2022



- **Accepting the funds saves Oklahoma money.** The federal government would send more than \$12 to Oklahoma for every \$1 in state spending. The economic boost is estimated to increase funds for education and other services by \$450 million.
- **Oklahomans will continue to pay federal taxes whether or not we accept the funds.** Refusing the federal dollars means we are paying for health care in other states while blocking benefits for Oklahomans.

Source: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, November 2012

Accepting the health care funds is good for business.

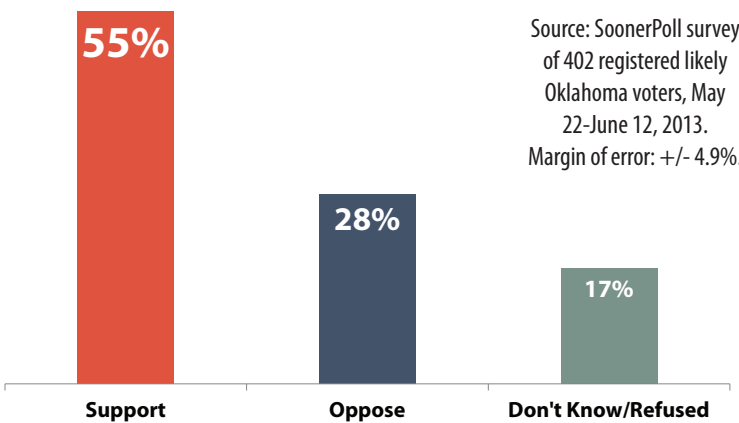
- **Accepting the funds would be a huge boost to Oklahoma’s economy.** Besides receiving billions in federal health care dollars, we would dramatically improve the health, financial security, and productivity of the state’s workforce.
- **Expanding health coverage is especially important for hard-working Oklahomans who we interact with on a daily basis.** Restaurant, fast food and retail workers, construction workers, and those who work with our children and assist our aging loved ones would gain new access to insurance.

Examples of Oklahoma Workers with a Family of Four Eligible for Insure Oklahoma Expansion	
Occupation	Average Income
Food Preparation and Serving Workers	\$17,650
Childcare Workers	\$19,040
Farm and Ranch Workers	\$20,210
Restaurant Cooks	\$20,730
Manicurists and Pedicurists	\$20,860
Home Health Aides	\$21,960
Hairdressers and Cosmetologists	\$23,510
Retail Salespersons	\$25,020

Source: Department of Labor and Industry, Occupational Employment Statistics, 2010

Oklahomans Agree...

Do you support a plan that expands Insure Oklahoma if it is paid for in part by federal money?



We are sending our tax dollars to other states and getting nothing in return by refusing billions in health care funds. State leaders need to stop playing politics and do the right thing for Oklahomans — expand health coverage!

What You Can Do:

- **Contact Lawmakers**
- **Engage Your Community**
- **Join the Grassroots Movement**



Find out more at www.togetherok.org or e-mail us at info@togetherok.org.