



## Making North Carolinians Healthier Through Medicaid Expansion

### **Closing the Coverage Gap for Healthier North Carolinians and a Healthier Economy**

Recommends expanding Medicaid to provide access to affordable health insurance to 626,000 additional individuals, including veterans, families with children, and others. It is anticipated that approximately 500,000 individuals would gain healthcare benefits in the first year. Medicaid expansion helps rural hospitals keep their doors open, aids in addressing the opioid epidemic, and helps lower health care costs for people and employers who buy health insurance. Medicaid expansion requires no state dollars, as the federal government pays 90% of the costs and the rest is paid by hospitals and health plans.

### **Saving Existing General Fund Appropriations by Expanding Medicaid**

Saves the state \$100 million over the biennium by expanding Medicaid. When states expand Medicaid, they typically save money in other areas because more services currently being provided to the uninsured and others using state dollars become paid for by Medicaid. Annually, the recurring savings to the state is approximately \$70 million.

### **Fighting the Opioid Epidemic through Expanded Treatment and Recovery**

Directs more than \$15 million in Medicaid funding to expand treatment and recovery services for individuals with opioid use disorders. Opioids harm North Carolina families, communities and economy and are a leading cause of accidental death in North Carolina. Expanding access to treatment and recovery services is critical to fighting the opioid epidemic.

### **Transforming Medicaid and Health Choice**

Provides funding to support the transition of the Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs from fee-for-service to managed care by leveraging \$268 million of the Medicaid Transformation Reserve.

### **Enhancing Medicaid and Health Choice Enrollment**

Creates a new ombudsman program to serve as an advocate for enrollees, helps enrollees pick the health plan that is right for them with an independent enrollment broker and makes necessary technology modifications to support managed care launch. Managed care begins November 1, 2019 and will serve most Medicaid beneficiaries.

### **Creating Data Management Platforms for Medicaid Managed Care**

Modifies the existing Medicaid data warehouse for changes required under managed care and creates a centralized credentialing system to help minimize administrative burden for doctors and other clinicians in managed care and comply with CMS requirements.

### **Funding Hospital Access Payments**

Provides funds to ensure financial stability for NC hospitals during the transition of Medicaid to a managed care system.

### **Expanding Developmental Disability Innovations Waiver Slots**

Creates additional slots to allow more individuals with developmental disabilities to obtain individualized services and remain in their homes and communities.

### **Continuing Graduate Medical Education**

Supports the next generation of physicians in rural and underserved areas by continuing and expanding Graduate Medical Education payments fully financed through hospital assessments.