



**COMMUNITY CARE
NETWORK OF KANSAS**
Health. Equity. Justice.

Community Care Supports Medicaid Expansion

For Immediate Release

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Patrick Lowry, Director of Communications and Governmental Relations, at plowry@communitycareks.org or (785) 806-3932.

TOPEKA – Community Care Network of Kansas long has supported expanding the state’s Medicaid program. As the state’s largest provider of comprehensive care for medically underserved populations, we know how increasing the number of individuals with access to KanCare would result in improved patient outcomes and overall community health.

Expanding Medicaid is a practical and cost-effective way to help healthcare consumers, providers and communities by closing the coverage gap, reducing uncompensated care costs and bringing desperately needed federal dollars into the Kansas economy. There are an estimated 150,000 deserving Kansans who don’t make enough money to afford quality health insurance but have incomes that are too high to qualify for KanCare. Most are employed and many work multiple jobs to provide for their families. In addition to helping so many individuals, expansion would strengthen the healthcare system and the economy overall.

We are pleased to support Governor Laura Kelly’s leadership on this issue this legislative session. We have yet to see the details of her proposal, but remain steadfast in our plea for legislators to expand Medicaid at the earliest opportunity. In the midst of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the corresponding mental health crisis, expanding the KanCare program makes sense now more than ever.

Thirty-eight other states already have expanded their Medicaid programs – including all of our neighboring states. Kansas is at a severe disadvantage when it comes to recruiting healthcare workers and competing for federal resources. The time to expand Medicaid is now.

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About Community Care Clinic of Kansas: Community Care exists to achieve equitable access to high-quality, whole-person care for all Kansans, regardless of ability to pay. As the Primary Care Association

(PCA) for Kansas, Community Care supports and strengthens its members through advocacy, education and communication. Community Care's diverse membership includes Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and Look-Alikes (LALs), as well as public and private nonprofit Community-Based Primary Care Clinics (CBPCCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs).