

# Medicaid Expansion

**The Peacemaking & Public Witness  
Mission Team asks you  
to prayerfully consider**

## ***Who is My Neighbor?***

Presbyterians know who God sees as our neighbors, and we know Jesus' admonition to care for all of them – even if there is a cost to us. See Luke 10: 29-37; Matthew 25.



**What is the issue?** More than 230,000 Missouri adults under age 65 fall into a “gap” between Missouri’s Medicaid program eligibility threshold and the income threshold that triggers federal assistance in paying for private health insurance. Most Missourians in this “gap” are uninsured and lack access to routine healthcare.

A decade ago, when the Affordable Care Act was passed by Congress, states were expected to expand coverage of their Medicaid programs to cover residents with incomes under 138% of the federal poverty limit. Today, Missouri is one of just 13 states that never did. Amendment 2 will finally do that, with the federal government covering 90% of the cost.

**Who are these neighbors?** The majority of Missourians in this “gap” are employed. They are single adults as well as mothers and fathers who live and work around us. Thousands live within the bounds of Missouri Union Presbytery. Providing access to care will include their preventative care, stemming the more costly care needed when chronic conditions are not receiving regular treatment, such as high blood pressure.

**At what cost?** Remember that the good Samaritan *paid* for the care of the one he helped. Nevertheless, states that have expanded their Medicaid programs have found the expansion either did not result in net increased costs or those costs were far lower than expected.

Local medical providers will be reimbursed for the care they provide to more Missourians. This will reduce uncompensated care costs that are now shouldered by providers or passed on to all of us, helping rural hospitals and clinics in central and northern Missouri.

In addition to providing needed healthcare coverage, Amendment 2 will create more jobs – as many as 16,000 new jobs per year for the next several years. Not surprisingly, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce has endorsed Amendment 2 as a “pro-jobs” measure:

<https://mochamber.com/news/amendment2/>

**Please consider Amendment 2 and remember to vote on August 4th.**

The Peacemaking & Public Witness Mission Team, Missouri Union Presbytery