



During a Medicaid expansion announcement event in June 2016, in Baton Rouge, Governor John Bel Edwards and Dr. Rebekah Gee, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health, visit with a resident who will benefit from Medicaid expansion. Announcement and enrollment events were held throughout the state in the months leading up to enrollment.

Medicaid Expansion

2016/17

“Prior to expansion 41 percent of our patients statewide were uninsured. Through expansion we covered the vast majority of those patients ensuring better access to care and long term savings for the state. Because of expansion we were able to add 951 jobs at FQHCs, generating \$13.7 million in new tax revenues for Louisiana.”

Deano Thornton, CEO Winn Community Health Center, Inc.

“For the states that chose to expand their Medicaid programs, there is ample evidence of increased usage of health services and improved affordability of care. Residents now have more access to primary care, paid lower out-of-pocket health care costs and rarely skip medications.”

Governing Magazine, February 2017



My first official act as governor was to expand the Medicaid program in Louisiana, and it was by far the easiest decision I have made. Through Medicaid expansion, we are bringing our federal tax dollars back to Louisiana to save lives and improve health outcomes for the working poor people of our state.

With Medicaid expansion, more people have gained health care coverage and access to preventive care, and we have seen a positive impact on our budget and our economy. We have succeeded in each of these areas. Nothing pleases me more than traveling the state and hearing from individuals who have benefitted from expansion.

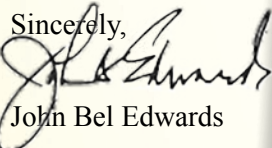
Now, one year since coverage began, more than 433,000 men and women have health care coverage under Medicaid expansion, or what we now call Healthy Louisiana. Many of these newly covered individuals are getting routine preventive care for the first time. And because of expansion, Louisiana's uninsured rate has dropped from 21.7 percent in 2013, to below 12.5 percent; one of the largest reductions in the uninsured rate for any state.

With more than 1,000 new jobs directly created because of expansion, and \$4 billion in new revenues for our health care providers, expansion has had a profound positive impact on Louisiana's economy.

In Fiscal Year 2017, Medicaid expansion saved Louisiana \$199 million. Beginning July 1, 2017, these savings are expected to surpass \$350 million. By saving our state money, we're able to better invest in our education system, various health care needs and the priorities of the people of Louisiana. But more important than the savings, is the life-saving care offered to the hard-working residents of our state.

In this report you'll learn more about the lives impacted and how expansion is helping to save important state financial resources.

Thank you for your time and your support.

Sincerely,

John Bel Edwards
Governor





I believe I have the best job in the state because I've been tasked with the opportunity to lead a generational shift in health care for the people of Louisiana. It has been both an honor and a privilege to implement the executive order signed by Governor Edwards which made Medicaid expansion in our state a reality.

The executive order was signed in January 2016, and Governor Edwards set an aggressive goal of less than six months for the Louisiana Department of Health to begin enrolling eligible people into the program. I'm incredibly proud of the team who worked tirelessly to put Louisiana residents first, and with no additional state resources, implemented a successful enrollment campaign.

Additionally, I'm thankful for the providers across our state who have opened their doors to more than 433,000 newly enrolled members who are seeking and receiving life-saving care.

With the support of our Governor, legislators, health care providers and more, we are creating a healthier Louisiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebekah Gee'.

Rebekah Gee, MD
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health



Expanded Coverage Means Better Care

As of June 26, 2017, more than 433,000 Louisiana residents who lacked coverage for essential health care services a year ago, now have coverage because of Medicaid expansion. More important than having coverage is using the coverage to visit a primary care doctor for an annual check-up, having prescription coverage and being covered for wellness visits and screenings.

Through primary care, a disease can be caught early, leading to a better health outcome. This means early detection and better management for patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, asthma, and more.

Since expansion began last July, more than 100,000 patients have received preventive care. More than 15,000 patients have received breast cancer screenings, and 154 have been diagnosed with breast cancer. More than 2,600 people have been diagnosed with diabetes, and nearly 10,500 have been screened for colon cancer. Patients are also getting mental health care services and treatment for addictions.

These aren't simply numbers. They represent real people with serious health conditions who now have a better outlook on life.

“Through Medicaid expansion, our health centers are better able to serve patients who were previously uninsured. Not only are we doing preventive care and diagnosis for patients for the first time, we are finally able to provide a full range of services for patients that were skipping appointments because they couldn't afford health care. This is keeping our rural communities healthier and saving the state money in the long term.”

Dr. Gary Wiltz, CEO Teche Action Clinic

“I have met many women who are alive today because their breast cancer was diagnosed and treated early. I have also spoken with patients who didn't know they had diabetes and were at risk for a complication that could end their lives early. Medicaid expansion is saving lives.”









*Dr. Rebekah Gee, Secretary,
Louisiana Department of Health*

Louisiana Lives Impacted



Healthy Louisiana

LDH Medicaid Expansion DASHBOARD

LIVES AFFECTED	OUTCOME
 433,412	Health Insurance Adults enrolled in Medicaid Expansion as of June 26, 2017
 100,703	Preventive Care Adults who received preventive healthcare or new patient services*
 15,193 154	Breast Cancer Women who've gotten screening or diagnostic breast imaging* Women diagnosed with breast cancer as a result of this imaging*
 10,538 3,169 157	Colon Cancer Adults who received colon cancer screening* Adults with colon polyps removed: colon cancer averted* Adults diagnosed with colon cancer as a result of this screening*
 2,662	Newly Diagnosed Diabetes Adults newly diagnosed and now treated for Diabetes*
 6,804	Newly Diagnosed Hypertension Adults newly diagnosed and now treated for Hypertension*
 25,189 4,256	Mental Health Adults receiving specialized outpatient mental health services* Adults receiving inpatient mental health services at a psychiatric facility*
 4,047 4,249	Substance Use Adults receiving specialized substance use outpatient services* Adults receiving specialized substance use residential services*

*Statistics as of June 12, 2017

Big Preparation, Short Timeframe

In order to meet the aggressive deadline set by Governor Edwards, systems had to be redesigned, and multiple tasks and approvals had to be completed. These included:

- ▶ Receive federal approval for an amended State Medicaid Plan.
- ▶ Ensure the Medicaid managed care organizations were ready to accept these newly eligible adults.
- ▶ Gear up for enrollment without additional state funding.
- ▶ Engage application center partners, including hospitals, to allow Louisiana Department of Health eligibility staff to conduct enrollment through a new out-station program.
- ▶ Amend contracts for eligibility systems.
- ▶ Design innovative enrollment strategies and get the requisite federal approvals.
- ▶ Identify participants in other state-funded programs who met the new income requirements and transition them into Medicaid.
- ▶ Develop and conduct education, outreach and communications efforts.
- ▶ Synchronize state enrollment website with the federal Healthcare.gov site.
- ▶ Launch a statewide “enrollment awareness” campaign.
- ▶ Test all new information technology systems to ensure capacity and readiness.

Innovative Approaches to Enrollment

The Louisiana Department of Health was not granted new state funding or resources to enroll the newly eligible adults, so the department implemented several innovative enrollment strategies that used existing systems to reach as many already-eligible residents as possible. These included:

- ▶ **Out-Stationed Staff:** Agreements were developed with some providers that

allowed Medicaid enrollment staff to work within hospitals and clinics.

- ▶ **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** Louisiana became the first state in the nation approved to fast-track enrollment for qualified SNAP beneficiaries into Medicaid.
- ▶ **Auto-enrolled Populations:** Nearly 190,000 individuals who were already receiving limited services through the Greater New Orleans Community Health Connection and Take Charge+ programs were automatically enrolled into Medicaid expansion for comprehensive coverage.
- ▶ **Shelters:** Following the August floods, Medicaid embedded eligibility staff into some general shelters to assist people with enrollment.



“Today, Health and Human Services approved a first-in-the-nation approach to Medicaid enrollment that will allow Louisiana to use information from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to determine eligibility and enroll people in Medicaid.”

Sylvia M. Burwell, former U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary

Budget Savings

Upon taking office in January 2016, Governor Edwards inherited a \$2 billion budget deficit. The timing of expansion was critically important. In Fiscal Year 2017, Medicaid expansion saved the state \$199 million. For the next year, FY18, these savings are expected to surpass \$350 million. The savings in State General Funds are occurring due to several factors:

- ▶ Additional revenue from a premium tax on managed care organizations.
- ▶ Some Medicaid populations that were funded at the higher, regular state match rate are now funded at the lower expansion match rate.
- ▶ Disproportionate share payments to hospitals have decreased as the uninsured population decreased.
- ▶ Hospital supplemental payments that were funded at the higher, regular state match rate are now funded at the lower expansion match rate.
- ▶ Inpatient hospital savings have been achieved because newly released state prisoners are now eligible for Medicaid insurance under expansion.

“This expansion of coverage provides our working poor residents with access to quality health insurance, while saving Louisiana almost \$200 million, creating jobs, and assisting in our efforts to stabilize the budget.”

Gov. John Bel Edwards

Louisiana Medicaid is Tough on Fraud

Earlier this year, the Office of Inspector General in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released an audit that found Louisiana’s Medicaid program is in full compliance with all federal anti-fraud requirements. Louisiana is one of only four states to pass this audit since 2014.

Gov. Edwards said there is a perception that Medicaid fraud is a problem. “This news should help allay the fears of those who often criticize the state’s efforts. The message is clear - when it comes to getting tough on Medicaid fraud, Louisiana is among an elite group of states leading the way by doing the right thing.”

Within the Louisiana Department of Health there are multiple systems in place to detect and prevent fraud. These include state-of-the-art software that uses pattern matching algorithms and predictive analytics to look for duplicate charges and other potentially fraudulent billing practices.

The full audit can be found at <http://oig.hhs.gov>.

Major Milestones

2016

January 12: Governor Edwards signs Executive Order JBE 16-01 to expand Medicaid

April: Outreach efforts begin

June: Enrollment begins

July: “Go-Live” / coverage begins

August: Total Healthy Louisiana enrollment reaches 275,000

October: Enrollment reaches 325,000

November: Enrollment exceeds 350,000

2017

January: Enrollment meets goal of 375,000 newly covered lives

February: 400,000 residents now covered under expansion

February: Louisiana’s uninsured rate drops from 21.7% (2013) to 12.5%, one of the largest reductions in the uninsured rate for any state, according to a recent [Gallup report](#)

April: The [Healthy Louisiana dashboard](#) was updated to include mental health and substance use statistics

June: One year since enrollment began; 12-month enrollment = 433,412 new adults.

Dashboard Provides At-A-Glance Information

To provide detailed information about enrollment and health outcomes for the newly enrolled expansion population, the Louisiana Department of Health created an online dashboard that presents real-time data in an easy-to-understand format.

Found at www.ldh.la.gov/healthyladashboard, the dashboard provides the most up-to-date enrollment metrics as well as outcome measures that are consistent with nationally accepted quality measures.

The enrollment data is updated weekly and can be viewed at both the state and parish level. The outcomes measures are updated every two weeks. Each measure is expandable, allowing users to get even more information in and charts or graphs, and the data displayed is available for download

from a menu on the graph or map. Clicking on or touching the map shows outcome measures at the parish level. Additionally, the dashboard features testimonials from residents whose lives have been impacted by the expansion of Medicaid in Louisiana.

The department built this tool in-house and at no additional taxpayer expense. Louisiana's team had no funding for vendors or consultants, relying solely on collaboration across the Department and our in-house, talented team members.

Today, the dashboard not only allows residents, state officials, news reporters and others to get Louisiana Medicaid expansion data quickly, it is also being recognized by other states and at the national level.

Testimonials

"Louisiana's success in enrolling so many people shows how welcome the expansion was across the state. It is also a reflection of Louisiana's role as a leader among states in enrollment strategies; it was the first state in the country to streamline enrollment for uninsured people who were enrolled in the SNAP program."

Cindy Mann, former CMS deputy administrator and director of the Center for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Services

"I looked to the local emergency room for care for my sickle cell disease. Although I could get relief for my pain, it was difficult to find someone to treat my vision problems. Because of the coverage I now have through Medicaid expansion, I was able to get two eye surgeries that were needed to reattach my retina and I'm better able to manage my sickle cell disease."

Matthew Guidry, Opelousas

"The shift in the state's approach to health care for the poor will eventually reduce the appeal of ERs as a first entry point for new patients. If you don't have insurance today, and tomorrow you have an insurance card... those patients are going to get care in a more appropriate setting."

Lisa Napier, Chief Financial Officer, University Medical Center, nola.com, June 2016

"The state's hospitals are welcoming Medicaid expansion. We've heard nothing but positive feedback from the hospitals and providers in what Medicaid expansion can do for funding of the hospitals."

Norby Chabert, Louisiana State Senator (R-Houma), Modern Healthcare, June 2016

Medicaid Expansion in Louisiana has been such a benefit to so many working people in Louisiana who, before expansion, relied on the emergency room for care. Today, with expansion, preventive and diagnostic medical coverage is available to these residents of our State.

Fred Mills, Louisiana State Senator (R-Iberia, St. Martin Parishes)

"It was a scary time having diabetes and being without health care coverage. But when I learned that having SNAP benefits also qualified me for Medicaid, I was so excited."

Lynnette, a 45-year-old woman living in LaPlace

"I'm a truck driver and I suffer from back pain. I probably couldn't get the surgery without Medicaid. It's wonderful. I really appreciate it."

Albert Forest, 57, New Orleans

Testimonials (continued)

“By any reasonable standard, the expansion of Medicaid in Louisiana appears to be a success. Thousands (of new enrollees) are seeing doctors, perhaps for the first time in years; preventive care can make people healthier, and those with diseases detected early have a fighting chance, even against cancers.”

The Advocate Editorial Board, Baton Rouge, October 2016

“It is crucial to our mission that all our patients, regardless of economic status, have the best access to care in the most appropriate setting.”

Gabriela Saenz, Vice President of Public Policy, CHRISTUS Health

“In promoting Medicaid expansion, Edwards didn’t just talk about jobs and deficits. He also talked about compassion and fair play. Contrary to stereotypes about “welfare,” Edwards noted, the majority of people on Medicaid are in households led by people with jobs.”

Jonathan Cohn, Milbank Memorial Fund, September 2016

“In the seven months since the expansion, North Oaks has seen a 60 percent increase in mammograms and a 61 percent increase in bone density screenings for Medicaid patients, a 26 percent increase in cervical cancer screenings, a 20 percent increase in A1C screenings for diabetes and an 18 percent increase in cholesterol screenings. These are all real people, with real needs, who have had their lives changed for the better.”

Michele Kidd Sutton, FACHE, President/CEO, North Oaks Health System

“I enrolled in Medicaid through expansion in July. In the beginning of August I went to my primary care because I was having abdominal pain. With my new coverage, I was able to get a colonoscopy, which allowed doctors to diagnosis me with Stage IV colon cancer. I now receive chemotherapy every two weeks, and take a variety of different medicines that I would not be able to get if not for Medicaid.”

Ricky Myles, Metairie

“This milestone policy change has been good for health care providers and the state budget, but most importantly for patients. Under Medicaid expansion, hundreds of thousands of hardworking Louisiana families no longer need to worry that an illness or injury will add to their financial hardships.”

Jan Moller, Director, Louisiana Budget Project

“Medicaid expansion provides an avenue for those caught in between Medicaid and the Marketplace (exchange). Aetna has had numerous members, who by having access to health care, has been life-saving or changing.”

Rick Born, Plan President, Aetna Better Health

“After many years of working in and around the Medicaid program in Louisiana and seeing the difficulties experienced by the many adults who historically did not qualify for coverage, it has been personally rewarding to be on the front line of Medicaid expansion. Our plan has received countless messages from new members expressing gratitude and relief. One such member told us he’d been unable to afford to see a doctor for his Sickle Cell disease in more than 20 years, despite working a full-time job.”

Kyle Viator, Plan President, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana

“Amerigroup Louisiana has been able to make a positive impact on the lives and health of Medicaid expansion recipients, who just one year ago would not have been eligible for coverage. We believe that more individuals having access to high quality health care will improve the overall wellness of our communities and create more productive citizens.”

Aaron Lambert, Plan President, Amerigroup

“Louisiana’s Medicaid expansion program continues to be successful, enrolling thousands of working individuals who cannot afford private insurance. Medicaid expansion is succeeding in cost effectively expanding access to care and helping these individuals live healthier lives.”

Allison Young, Plan President, UnitedHealthcare

“What happens to a single mother of three working two jobs who suffers from something as simple as a thyroid problem but can’t afford to see the doctor? Before Louisiana expanded Medicaid, I wasn’t sure I could answer that question. But now, that mom can go to the doctor and get the medication she needs. She doesn’t have to wait until it’s so bad she ends up in the emergency room. She doesn’t have to neglect her health or sacrifice her work and family life.”

Jamie Schlottman, Plan President, Louisiana Healthcare Connections



Louisiana Department of Health

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