Large majority supports state’s Medicaid expansion

Medicaid was created to pay for healthcare for people with low incomes. Historically, Medicaid provided coverage for children, parents, pregnant women, the blind, elderly and disabled. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides funding for states to increase Medicaid eligibility to all residents with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). However, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states could opt out of the Medicaid expansion. This left the decision to expand Medicaid to state leaders.

As of December 2013, Kentucky, 24 other states and the District of Columbia planned to expand Medicaid. Two other states were considering expansion. The remaining 23 states were not considering expansion. The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services estimates that 308,000 uninsured Kentuckians will now qualify for Medicaid.

Large majorities favor expansion

Nearly 8 in 10 Kentucky adults (79%) favor Kentucky’s decision to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income people (51% strongly favor, 28% somewhat favor). Large majorities of all demographic groups tracked by KHIP, including Democrats, Republicans and Independents, favor Medicaid expansion.
Large majorities think expansion is important

Similarly, nearly 9 in 10 Kentucky adults (87%) reported that it is very important (57%) or somewhat important (30%) that Kentucky Medicaid provides coverage to low-income people. A large majority of all demographic groups, including Democrats, Republicans and Independents, reported that it was important that Kentucky Medicaid provide healthcare coverage to low-income people.