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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).¹ 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.² The

¹ In 2012, 138% FPL was an annual income of \$15,415 for a single person or \$30,675 for a family of four.

²The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. State Health Facts, "Status of State Action on Medicaid Expansion Decision, as of December 11, 2013." Retrieved Dec. 17, 2013, from: <u>http://</u> <u>kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/stateactivity-around-expanding-medicaid-underthe-affordable-care-act/</u> Percentage of Kentucky adults who favor Kentucky's decision to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income people*

	51%	28% 79%
Strongly favor		Somewhat favor

*KHIP asked, "In Kentucky, the state has chosen to expand Medicaid, as the health law permits, to provide health insurance to more low-income people. Do you favor or oppose Kentucky's decision to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income people?"

How important is it to you that Kentucky Medicaid provides health care coverage to low-income individuals?**



**KHIP asked, "The Kentucky Medicaid program provides health care coverage to low-income individuals based on poverty guidelines. How important is it to you that Kentucky Medicaid provides health care coverage to low-income individuals?"

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services estimates that 308,000 uninsured Kentuckians will now qualify for Medicaid.³

Results from the 2013 *Kentucky Health Issues Poll* (KHIP) show that Kentucky adults strongly support the decision to expand Medicaid in the Commonwealth.

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.

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These findings unless otherwise noted are from the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and Interact for Health. The Kentucky Health Issues Poll was conducted Oct. 25-Nov. 26, 2013, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,551 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 951 landline interviews and 600 cell phone interviews with cell phone users. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to ± 2.5%. There are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects that can introduce error or bias. For more information about the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, please visit www.healthy-ky.org or www.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll.

³ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. (n.d.) Analysis of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid Expansion in Kentucky. Retrieved Dec. 17, 2013, from: <u>http://governor.</u> ky.gov/healthierky/Documents/MedicaidExpansionWhitePaper.pdf

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 lowincome people.