



Latest Updates: Medicaid Block Grant and Medicaid Expansion

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AGENDA



Updates about TN's Medicaid block grant proposal and Medicaid expansion efforts in TN

- CMS Guidance on Medicaid block grants
- Updates: TN's work reporting requirements proposal
- Medicaid Expansion bill!
- Q&A

CMS Guidance on Medicaid Block Grants

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CMS Guidance on Block Grants



- Issued on Jan. 30, 2020
- Primarily relates to Medicaid expansion populations
- Many harmful provisions: premiums, higher copayments, denial of vital prescription drugs, work requirements, etc.
- Medicaid funding is capped, and financial incentives for states to make cuts to Medicaid
- Likely violates federal law – At a minimum, requires re-do of notice and comment period

Opposition to Medicaid Block Grants

[Patient Groups Express Strong Opposition to New CMS Guidance on Medicaid Block Grants](#): “Simply put, block grants and per capita caps will reduce access to quality and affordable health care for patients with serious and chronic health conditions and are therefore unacceptable to our organizations.”

[Leading Children’s Health Groups Oppose New Federal Guidance on Medicaid](#): “Our organizations are united in opposition to any threat to Medicaid that would dismantle a pillar program millions of families rely on. At a time when child uninsurance is already on the rise, this guidance makes it even harder to guarantee children can get the care they need.”

What does the guidance mean for TN?

- TN submitted Medicaid block grant proposal to CMS last year, even though TN has not expanded Medicaid.
- We are not safe!!! The guidance isn't the only pathway for states to apply for restrictive waivers.
- Seema Verma, CMS Administrator: TN proposal “separate” from new block grant guidance.
- But guidance provides some insight on what CMS might be willing to grant within TN's proposal.

TN's Medicaid Work Reporting Requirements Proposal

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TN's Work Reporting Requirements Proposal

- Bill passed in 2018 legislative session, and comment periods in late 2018 and early 2019
- [Georgetown CCF and TJC Analysis](#): work requirements proposal would cause approximately 68,000 parents to lose their Medicaid coverage
- State fiscal review committee said work requirements would cost state net \$34 million annually.

Updates: TN's Work Reporting Requirements Proposal

- Multiple times in Dec. 2019, TennCare asked CMS for an update on its work requirements waiver request.
- Remains hung up amid questions from federal government about using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds for the program.

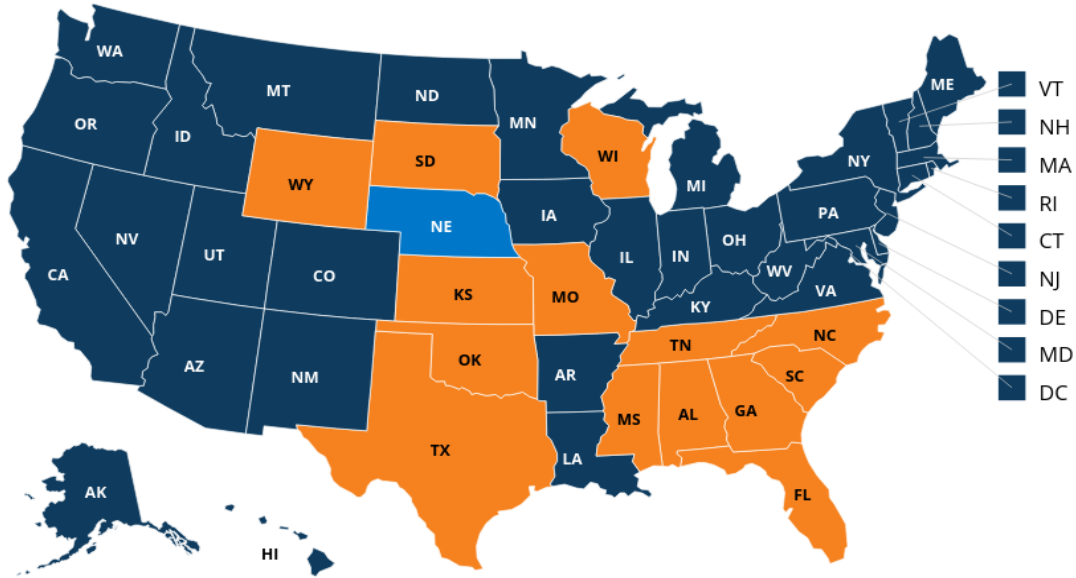
Medicaid Expansion

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Rep. Travis's Medicaid expansion bill

- Rep. Travis moved by personal tragedy, the passing of his sister-in-law late last year, to [file a bill](#) to expand Medicaid through Gov. Haslam's Insure Tennessee plan
- Sticking to usual script, legislative leaders and the Beacon Center immediately said bill would go nowhere.
- **But this isn't politics as usual. Rep. Travis's authentic witness could open hearts and minds.**

Status of State Action on the Medicaid Expansion Decision



■ Adopted and Implemented ■ Adopted but Not Implemented ■ Not Adopted

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation, kff.org

Rising Rate of Uninsured in TN



- [Fiscal Review Committee reported](#) that Gov. Haslam's Insure Tennessee proposal would provide coverage to 300,000 uninsured Tennesseans.
- Tennessee suffered [third-largest increase of uninsured people in the nation in 2018](#), with 46,000 more Tennesseans without health insurance.

Rural Hospital Closures

- [New Study](#): 52% of TN's rural hospitals are performing financially at the same level as hospitals that have closed over the past decade.
- Big South Fork Medical Center in Oneida [diverting patients after payroll problems](#) (2/6/20)
- Two hospitals closed last year – Cumberland River Hospital in Celina and Jamestown Regional Medical Center.

Cumberland River Hospital

- One year anniversary of closure on March 1.
- Although hospital was brought, unable to reopen yet → shows difficulty of reopening hospitals after they close.



Other Benefits of Medicaid Expansion

- Bring \$1.4 billion annually (\$3.8 million/day) in federal health care funding into TN, by [legislature's own estimate](#).
- That money would generate [15,000 jobs](#).
- Federal funding would support services to prevent and treat addiction epidemic, which has reached crisis proportions across the state.

Gov. Lee's State of the State



- Monday, Feb. 3 – Governor Lee [delivered his second State of the State address](#).
- Initiative to extend postpartum coverage to 12 months for mothers covered by TennCare. **However, to truly address the maternal health crisis, there is more we should do.** [Research shows](#) Medicaid expansion increases access to preventive care, reduces adverse health outcomes before, during and after pregnancies, and reduces maternal mortality rates.
- Last year in his State of the State address, Governor Lee [said healthcare was one of his top 3 policy priorities](#) and that “every Tennessean should have access to high quality healthcare that they can afford.” **We need to hold him to this commitment.**

Speaker Cameron Sexton

- Key leader in debates about Medicaid expansion
- Chaired 3-Star Healthy Task Force in 2016: Likely would have led to Medicaid expansion in 2017 legislative session, but then 2016 election threw that off.



Take 2 minutes to call
Speaker Sexton and ask him
to support Rep. Travis's
Insure Tennessee bill!

TennCare Subcommittee

- If you live in districts of the Representatives who serve on TennCare subcommittee, tell them to support the Medicaid expansion bill!

Rep. David Hawk – Chair

Rep. Scott Cepicky

Rep. Bryan Terry

Rep. Ron M. Gant

Rep. Jason Zachary

Rep. Larry Miller

Rep. Robin Smith

Questions?

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THANK YOU!

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