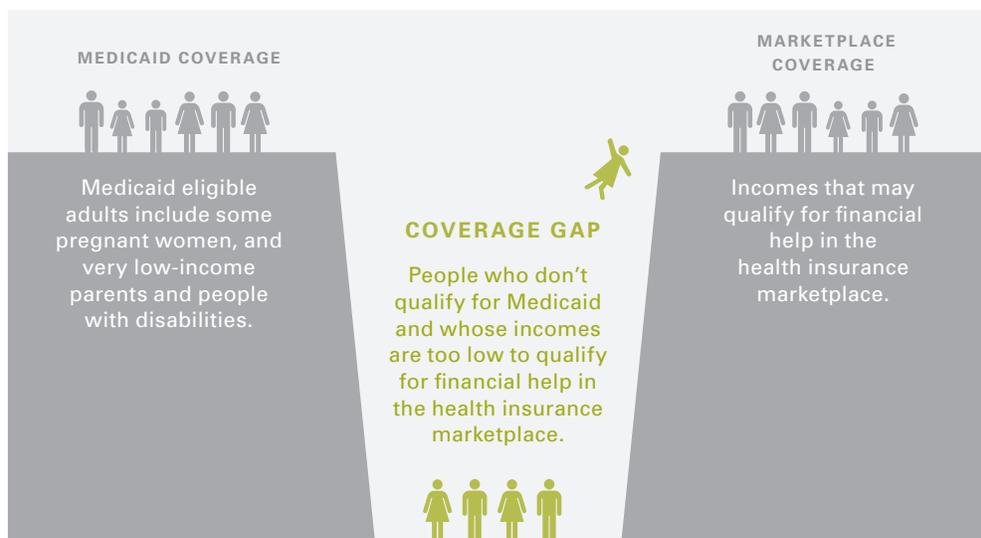




Close Georgia's Coverage Gap

The ACA was designed to provide a path to health insurance for all Americans. Unfortunately, more than 300,000 Georgians remain unable to get coverage. These Georgians are veterans, parents, and low-wage workers. They are our friends, family, and neighbors. They do not qualify for Medicaid and do not make enough money to get financial help through the health insurance Marketplace (also called healthcare.gov). They are stuck in the coverage gap.

Our governor and legislature have the power to solve this problem. Governor Deal and Georgia's legislature can choose to use federal tax dollars that have already been set aside to provide health insurance to people in the coverage gap. Closing the coverage gap would provide much needed health insurance for Georgians who can't afford it, boost our economy, and strengthen our health care system.



You can help!

- Tell us if you or someone you know is in the coverage gap.**
Your story is one of the most powerful tools to help us close the gap. Tell us how health insurance would help you and your family. Your story will help show policy makers and other Georgians why it is so important to close the coverage gap now. Share your story at healthyfuturega.org/advocacy/mystory or call us at 404-567-5016, ext 2.
- Tell your state legislators to close the coverage gap.**
Tell them you think they should close the coverage gap by expanding Medicaid. Use the facts on the other side of this sheet to tell them why closing the coverage gap is good for Georgia. Find your state legislators by visiting healthyfuturega.org/advocacy and scroll down to "Find & contact your legislators".
- Invite Cover Georgia to speak to your organization.**
If you are a member of a church, civic group, sorority or fraternity, or other organization, we can come talk to your group about this important issue. Contact Laura Colbert at lcolbert@healthyfuturega.org or 404-567-5016, ext. 2 for more information.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION VISIT:



Cover Georgia Coalition



Health Initiative
www.thehealthinitiative.org



Georgia Equality
www.georgiaequality.org



Georgians for a Healthy Future
www.healthyfuturega.org

Why closing the coverage gap matters to Georgia's LGBT community

Closing the coverage gap in Georgia is essential to:

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS.

Under these new guidelines, according to the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, up to 72% of people living with HIV/AIDS in Georgia would qualify for Medicaid. This would solve the recurring problem of paying for medications through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. It would also create a new source of funding for health care providers and allow for greater choice of providers.

THE LGBT COMMUNITY.

Setting Medicaid eligibility based on income rather than family or disability status will allow LGBT Georgians to access coverage. In 2011, 65% of the people who accessed The Health Initiative's LGBT health fund for the uninsured are people who would be eligible for Medicaid if Georgia closed its gap.

LGBT YOUTH.

While young adults up to the age of 26 can stay on their parents' health insurance plan, according to a report from the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, 26% of LGBT youth who come out to their parents are kicked out of their homes. Insurance provided through Medicaid would help these young people secure basic medical care if insurance through their parents is not an option.

GEORGIA'S ECONOMY.

Georgia loses \$3 billion of federal money for each year that it does not close the coverage gap. This money is expected to create more than 50,000 jobs. It will also stimulate new economic activity which will bring in more than \$200 million in new state and local tax revenue.

INSURED.

People without health insurance still get sick or hurt (just like everyone else!). In 2012, care for the uninsured cost Georgia hospitals more than \$1.6 billion. It's estimated that insured families pay \$1,000 a year in higher premiums to help cover these costs. Covering everyone saves money for everyone!

GEORGIA'S TAXPAYERS.

Georgia's tax dollars stay with the federal government if we do not close the coverage gap. This money has already been set aside to pay for this program. Georgia's policy makers should bring our tax dollars back to Georgia to take care of Georgians.

UNINSURED ADULTS.

Many of Georgia's uninsured work low-wage jobs—like construction, child care, food service—where they do not get insurance. For people and families without job-based insurance, Medicaid is the only way for them to see the doctor. Closing the coverage gap and providing all adults with health insurance will create a healthier workforce and provide families peace of mind.

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