

# What is the Texas Coverage Gap?

Between 750,000 and 1 million uninsured adult Texans are in the Coverage Gap, meaning they have no affordable health insurance options today, but they would be covered if our state accepted new federal health care funds that are available for their coverage. The Coverage Gap includes the folks who cook and serve our food, care for our seniors, build our homes, and fix our cars.

## They:

- Do not receive health insurance from their employers.
- Make less than \$20,200 for a family of three (below the federal poverty income, which varies by family size).
- Do not qualify for financial assistance on healthcare.gov, because the discounted premiums under Obamacare are not available for people under the poverty line.
- Do not qualify for Texas' Medicaid program, because it does not cover any "able-bodied" working-age adults (e.g., not fully disabled, currently pregnant, or over 65) beyond a small number of parents who earn less than \$4,000 per year for a family of three.

## WHY does Texas have a Coverage Gap?

- In Texas, most uninsured adults with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) are not eligible for Medicaid benefits.
- The Affordable Care Act (ACA, Obamacare) expanded Medicaid to adults up to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Level (FPL) (e.g., annual household income of \$16,394 for one person, or \$33,534 for family of four). But in 2012 the Supreme Court made expansion optional for states.

UPDATED  
JUNE 2016

**864,000**  
~~766,000~~

Texans are caught  
in the **health insurance  
coverage gap**. Who are they?

They're the folks who serve our food at restaurants, care for our seniors, patch our roofs, and fix our cars. Our state depends on them, yet many of these workers cannot afford health insurance.

## Did you know?

To qualify for Medicaid as a parent in **Texas**, your income must be extremely low—less than **\$4,000** a year for a family of 3. If you are an adult without children, you can't qualify for Medicaid in **Texas**, no matter how little you earn.

**Family of 3**  
(income above \$4,000)  
**DOES NOT QUALIFY**

**Adult without children**  
(any income)  
**DOES NOT QUALIFY**

- But the Court left in place the original ACA rule that subsidies for private insurance in the Marketplace ([www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)) are only available to people above the poverty level (written that way when Congress assumed that all lawfully present Americans below poverty would have Medicaid coverage).
- Key Texas elected leaders have opposed the ACA in general and have refused to create coverage for the uninsured Texans in this income group.

## How could Texas close the Coverage Gap for working poor adults?

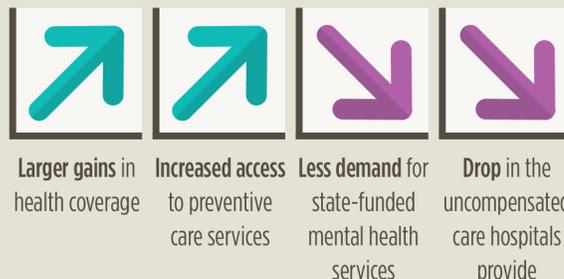
- Expanding traditional Medicaid for adults (25 states plus D.C. have done this); or
- Adopting an alternative coverage plan under a federal waiver. (6 states currently do this)

## Learn More about the Coverage Gap, Medicaid Expansion, and Alternative Coverage Programs under federal waivers:

- [Closing the Coverage Gap: What You Need to Know](#)
- [The Texas Coverage Gap](#)
- [Current Map of Medicaid Expansion States](#)
- [Alternative Coverage Programs Under Federal Waivers](#)
- [The ACA and Medicaid Expansion Waivers](#)
- [How much federal money Texas has turned down to date, since 2014 \(top of page, center\)](#)
- [Texas and County estimates of potential uninsured covered, health spending gained, and jobs created](#)
- [How hospitals are doing better in states with Medicaid Expansion than in Coverage Gap states](#)
- [The health system haves and have nots of ACA expansion](#)
- [How to get involved in closing the Coverage Gap in Texas](#)

For live URLs, visit [bit.ly/CPppcoveragegap](http://bit.ly/CPppcoveragegap) (case sensitive)

## States that have closed the coverage gap have experienced



Tell Governor Abbott and Texas legislators to give **864,000** Texans access to affordable health coverage



[texaswellandhealthy.org](http://texaswellandhealthy.org)

NOTE: Data current as of March 2016

CPpp is an independent public policy organization that uses research, analysis and advocacy to promote solutions that enable Texans of all backgrounds to reach their full potential. Learn more at [CPpp.org](http://CPpp.org). For more information, please contact Oliver Bernstein at [bernstein@cppp.org](mailto:bernstein@cppp.org) or call 512.823.2875.