



Medicaid Expansion Update

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Board of Commissioners Briefing

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Background

- Medicaid is a federally funded, state administered insurance program for individuals living below poverty level. Medicaid was designed to primarily serve low wealth children and disabled or elderly adults.
- Each state has a unique Medicaid plan that is approved by the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid
- The Affordable care Act called for Medicaid expansion nationwide. In June 2012, the Supreme Court ruled that states could not be forced to expand their Medicaid programs, so it was left to each state to determine whether (and when) to participate or not.
- When Medicaid expansion first took effect in 2014, it was only available in 26 states and DC. In the ensuing years, there has been a slow but steady increase in the number of states implementing Medicaid expansion.
- In March 2023 NC became the 40th state to sign Medicaid Expansion into law



NC Medicaid Expansion - Timeline

- [HB 76](#) passed both the House and Senate, and was signed into law by Governor Cooper on March 27
- Before expanded enrollment can begin, 2 additional actions must take place:
 1. NC General Assembly must pass a state budget
 2. Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services must approve NC's expansion plan
- Go-live could occur anytime from July 1 to December 1, 2023



Medicaid Expansion - Local Impact

- Estimated additional 15,429 eligible Medicaid recipients in Buncombe County
- Primary impact will be for individuals aged 19-64 living at or below 133% of the federal poverty level
- Projected 29% increase over our current Medicaid caseload of 60,934 recipients
- 38 additional positions & operating cost - \$3.4 million [board action required]
- No operational cost to county taxpayers expected through at least SFY25



Medicaid Expansion – Advance Planning

- Staff assumptions
 - Simplified eligibility rules
 - Required staff training on new model
 - 100% quality control for an extended period
- Intentional & expedited recruitment process
 - Review job description, qualifications & working titles for additional positions
 - Start recruitment at bill signing
 - Increased & expanded advertising
 - Continuous recruitment until all positions are filled



Discussion

