

# Initiative 185: Keeping Medicaid Expansion in Montana

## What is Initiative 185?

Initiative 185 is a ballot initiative that extends Medicaid expansion coverage in Montana, which would otherwise expire on June 30, 2019. The expansion has provided Medicaid coverage to people under 65 with incomes at or below **138%** of the federal poverty level, helping to close the 'coverage gap' for people who could not afford health insurance on their own, but did not qualify for Medicaid.

## Who would benefit?

### Hard-working Montanans



As of 2018, **93,950** working age Montanans received health coverage through the Medicaid expansion, or around **1 in 7**.

Since enacting the Medicaid expansion, the uninsured rate in Montana has fallen by nearly half, from **15%** in 2015 to **7.8%** in 2018.

Expansion also provides Montana with federal funds necessary to maintain the state's mental health system, which offers services and supports critical to many of the more than **42,000** Montanans with serious mental illness and **73,000** with people with symptoms of substance use disorder.

### Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Communities

Medicaid expansion has brought over **\$700 million** in federal funds to Montana and saved the state over **\$36 million**. Since expansion, Montana has added **6,200** new health care jobs and maintaining the Medicaid expansion is expected to create around **5,000** new jobs in the state between 2018 and 2020.



Medicaid expansion has also been shown to be particularly beneficial in rural communities, which make up almost **65%** of Montana's population.



Not only does it help more residents in rural areas gain health coverage, but Medicaid expansion also provides much-needed funds to the **48** critical access hospitals in Idaho, which provide the only source of hospital care in the rural areas where they operate.

**On November 6, support  
your fellow Montanans and  
vote YES on Initiative 185!**