

In 2012, Colorado will be offering Medicaid for adults without dependent children, who have been categorically ineligible for the program in the past. According to the [Colorado Health Institute](#), **157,805 Colorado adults without dependent children with incomes up to 100% of the federal poverty level are currently uninsured** and are likely to be eligible for this program.

Thanks to great foresight on the part of our legislature, an historic expansion will occur in the state's Medicaid program to provide coverage for this population with funding from a hospital provider fee and federal matching dollars. When it is fully implemented, it will cover uninsured adults without dependents between 19 and 65 years of age with incomes of up to \$900 a month (for a single adult).

In the interest of ensuring this expansion's success, the [Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved](#) has established the Connect to Coverage, Connect to Care Campaign. The Connect Campaign is a group of stakeholder organizations working together to support the expansion as the state works to develop and implement it, and the Colorado Rural Health Center has been playing an active role in this group. The Connect Campaign is following the state's progress to ensure effective decision-making.

To be successful, we all must work together as everyone has a role to play in preparing for this expansion:

- **Clinics and hospitals:** begin preparations for enrolling current patients who will become newly eligible for Medicaid, prepare for the possible influx of new patients, educate staff and providers on new regulations, consider staffing needs and resources necessary for additional patients
- **Community organizations:** begin preparing to do additional enrollment and outreach to this population, determine what community resources will be available to refer the newly insured to for assistance with accessing coverage and care
- **Everyone:** educate yourself on the changes (read more on the [Connect Campaign's website](#)), consider your community's capacity and potential issues, and help spread awareness of the policy change

The state and the Connect Campaign are working hard to make sure the key issues are addressed in order for the expansion to be successful. Insights from the community are always needed on such issues as: the population's needed health benefits, the capacity of Colorado's providers to care for these patients, seamless outreach and enrollment procedures, and spreading awareness. By contributing your resources and knowledge ahead of the expansion implementation, we can ensure the successful connection to coverage and care for a good portion of Colorado's uninsured population.

If you would like to follow the Connect Campaign more closely, you can check out its [website](#), or get on the e-mail distribution list by e-mailing [Aubrey Hill](#). You can also contact her if you have any other questions about the Connect Campaign.