

## Most People Who Would Benefit from Medicaid Expansion in Texas Are Working in Jobs That Are Foundational to Texas' Economy

Texas is one of the few states that has not yet expanded its Medicaid program to cover low-income adults. Most people who would benefit from Medicaid expansion in Texas are working.<sup>1</sup> As demonstrated below, many of those who would be eligible for coverage through Medicaid expansion in Texas work in physically demanding industries that are the foundation of the state's economy.



Currently, almost no working Texans are eligible for Medicaid because the state limits eligibility for adults to parents who have no or almost no work income. However, many working Texans do not receive health insurance through their job. This means that an estimated 761,000 Texans are uninsured because they are in the “coverage gap,” meaning they don't get job-based coverage, their salaries are too high to qualify for Medicaid, and they do not make enough to qualify for subsidized coverage on the marketplace.<sup>2</sup> Medicaid expansion in Texas would completely close this coverage gap and allow these working Texans to get health insurance.

Table 1 (page 2) lists the most common occupations of working adults who would benefit if Texas expanded Medicaid. Top industries include construction, food preparation, and sales. Medicaid expansion could help these working Texans live healthier lives and be more productive employees.

### TOP OCCUPATIONS OF TEXANS IN THE COVERAGE GAP

-  Construction and extraction occupations
-  Food preparation and serving occupations
-  Sales and related occupations
-  Cleaning and maintenance occupations
-  Transportation and material moving occupations
-  Office and administrative support occupations
-  Health care support occupations
-  Production occupations
-  Personal care and service occupations

**Table 1. The most common occupations of working adults who would benefit if Texas expanded Medicaid.**

Industries and Example Occupations	Number of Adults Eligible for Medicaid Expansion	Percentage of All Working Adults Eligible for Medicaid Expansion
<b>Construction and extraction occupations</b> <i>(carpenters, electricians, roofers, and plumbers)</i>	163,291	13.6%
<b>Food preparation and serving occupations</b> <i>(cooks, bartenders, restaurant servers, and dishwashers)</i>	156,989	13.1%
<b>Sales and related occupations</b> <i>(cashiers, retail salespeople, travel agents, and real estate brokers)</i>	141,950	11.9%
<b>Cleaning and maintenance occupations</b> <i>(housekeepers, janitors, groundskeepers, and pest control workers)</i>	140,240	11.7%
<b>Transportation and material moving occupations</b> <i>(bus drivers, train conductors, truck and tractor operators, and shipping and packaging workers)</i>	112,443	9.4%
<b>Office and administrative support occupations</b> <i>(telephone operators, bank tellers, receptionists, and secretaries)</i>	91,970	7.7%
<b>Health care support occupations</b> <i>(nurses, dental and medical assistants, and massage therapists)</i>	68,145	5.7%
<b>Production occupations</b> <i>(bakers, meat and poultry processors, machinists, and power plant workers)</i>	65,008	5.4%
<b>Personal care and service occupations</b> <i>(hairstylists, child care workers, tour guides, and fitness instructors)</i>	48,818	4.1%
<b>Other Occupations</b>	209,388	17.4%

Source: These data are based on Families USA's analysis of information from the American Community Survey 2014-2018, which was conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Note: Data are based on an analysis of Texas residents ages 19-64 who meet the following criteria: have family incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level (\$29,974 for a family of three in 2020), are uninsured or purchase insurance from the individual market, and are currently working or have worked in the last 12 months.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Families USA's analysis of information from the American Community Survey 2014–2018.

<sup>2</sup> Rachel Garfield, Kendal Orgera, and Anthony Damico, “The Coverage Gap: Uninsured Poor Adults in States That Do Not Expand Medicaid,” Kaiser Family Foundation, January 14, 2020, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicaid/>.

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