

# IMPACT OF MEDI-CAL EXPANSION: LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPT. OF HEALTH SERVICES

## What has coverage expansion meant to LACDHS?

**Fewer Uninsured Patients:** In Los Angeles County, Medi-Cal expansion and Covered California have reduced the uninsured rate **from 20.9% to 11.1%**.

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services is the primary care provider to **about 220,000 people** who have gained coverage through Medi-Cal since 2014.

**Higher Value Care:** The expansion of Medi-Cal has created a more stable coverage landscape, which has enabled the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services to focus investments on better care coordination, increased access, and improved health outcomes for patients through an emphasis on primary and preventive care.

LACDHS has empaneled **more than 450,000 patients** into medical homes to connect patients with a dedicated primary care team, and now offers co-located physical and behavioral health services to help patients address all of their needs in a more coordinated and convenient manner.

These improvements help ensure that patients can be seen in more appropriate and cost-effective primary and preventive care settings, rather than in very costly emergency settings.

## What happens to Los Angeles County if coverage expansion is repealed?

**More Uninsured:** An estimated **970,000 individuals** would lose coverage through Medi-Cal or Covered CA in Los Angeles County.

**Economic Impact:** Los Angeles County is projected to lose **\$5.8 billion** in GDP as a result of an ACA repeal.

**Job Loss:** An estimated **63,000 individuals** could lose their jobs in Los Angeles County

## What happens to California if coverage expansion is repealed?

**More Uninsured:** CA's uninsured rate is expected to double, to **over 17%**.

**Economic Impact:** The state estimates a **\$16 billion loss** in federal revenue with the repeal of the Medicaid expansion and **another \$5 billion** with the elimination of tax subsidies for enrollees in Covered CA.

**Job Loss:** An estimated **200,000 Californians** could lose their jobs.

***We urge that any action to repeal the Affordable Care Act preserve the Medicaid expansion and be coupled with an adequate, simultaneous replacement that ensures the same level of coverage and quality of benefits.***

**In FY 2015-2016, LACDHS received approximately \$900 million in federal funding to care for Medi-Cal expansion patients.**

**A dramatic increase in the number of uninsured, coupled with a loss of funding, could destabilize Los Angeles County's health care delivery system.**

## Personal Impact - Andre Green



**"I'm lucky to be living,"** says Andre Green, a 61 year-old pre-school teacher and resident of Los Angeles, who qualified for health coverage through the State's expansion efforts, and transitioned into Medi-Cal in 2014.

Andre found himself in the emergency room for a cut that would not heal, and was surprised to learn that he had diabetes, and blood sugar levels many times higher than normal. "I was a walking time bomb and did not know it." When he was hospitalized for cramps in his legs, doctors found blood clots on his heart and lung. He was referred to a pulmonary specialist who treated him in an outpatient setting.

Andre now has access to specialty care when he needs it, he regularly sees a primary care physician, he attends diabetes education classes, and he can obtain the medications he needs to manage his condition.

He wants to stay out of the emergency room for good, but says "without my Medi-Cal health insurance, I would not be able to take care of the bill."

## ABOUT LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPT. OF HEALTH SERVICES

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services is Los Angeles County's public health care system, and is at the heart of the county's health care safety net, providing emergency, primary, and specialty care.

LACDHS operates **4 hospitals** and **19 outpatient clinics**, serving **more than 600,000 patients** annually in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

LACDHS is one of the largest employers in the county, providing **more than 22,900 jobs**.