



# Large majority supports state's Medicaid expansion

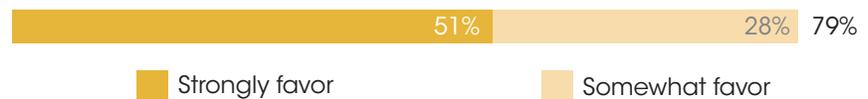
Medicaid was created to pay for healthcare for people with low incomes. Historically, Medicaid provided coverage for children, parents, pregnant women, the blind, elderly and disabled. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides funding for states to increase Medicaid eligibility to all residents with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).<sup>1</sup> However, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states could opt out of the Medicaid expansion. This left the decision to expand Medicaid to state leaders.

As of December 2013, Kentucky, 24 other states and the District of Columbia planned to expand Medicaid. Two other states were considering expansion. The remaining 23 states were not considering expansion.<sup>2</sup> The

<sup>1</sup> In 2012, 138% FPL was an annual income of \$15,415 for a single person or \$30,675 for a family of four.

<sup>2</sup> The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. State Health Facts, "Status of State Action on Medicaid Expansion Decision, as of December 11, 2013." Retrieved Dec. 17, 2013, from: <http://kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/state-activity-around-expanding-medicaid-under-the-affordable-care-act/>

## Percentage of Kentucky adults who favor Kentucky's decision to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income people\*



\*KHIP asked, "In Kentucky, the state has chosen to expand Medicaid, as the health law permits, to provide health insurance to more low-income people. Do you favor or oppose Kentucky's decision to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income people?"

## How important is it to you that Kentucky Medicaid provides health care coverage to low-income individuals? \*\*



\*\* KHIP asked, "The Kentucky Medicaid program provides health care coverage to low-income individuals based on poverty guidelines. How important is it to you that Kentucky Medicaid provides health care coverage to low-income individuals?"

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services estimates that 308,000 uninsured Kentuckians will now qualify for Medicaid.<sup>3</sup>

Results from the 2013 **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** show that Kentucky adults strongly support the decision to expand Medicaid in the Commonwealth.

<sup>3</sup> Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. (n.d.) Analysis of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid Expansion in Kentucky. Retrieved Dec. 17, 2013, from: <http://governor.ky.gov/healthierky/Documents/MedicaidExpansionWhitePaper.pdf>

## Large majorities favor expansion

Nearly 8 in 10 Kentucky adults (79%) favor Kentucky's decision to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income people (51% strongly favor, 28% somewhat favor). Large majorities of all demographic groups tracked by KHIP, including Democrats, Republicans and Independents, favor Medicaid expansion.

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## **Large majorities think expansion is important**

Similarly, nearly 9 in 10 Kentucky adults (87%) reported that it is very important (57%) or somewhat important (30%) that Kentucky Medicaid provides coverage to low-income people. A large majority of all demographic groups, including Democrats, Republicans and Independents, reported that it was important that Kentucky Medicaid provide healthcare coverage to low-income people.