A Health Insurance Card in Every Georgian's Pocket

Getting More Georgians Insured Is a Critical Investment for Columbia County

Thousands of Georgians are stuck without any affordable options for health insurance because state leaders repeatedly reject billions of dollars meant to pay for coverage. About **240,000** workers, students, veterans and other Georgians make too little to get financial help to buy health insurance and do not currently qualify for Medicaid. The majority of these Georgians are working in low-wage jobs where they are not offered health benefits.

Every year state lawmakers fail to expand Medicaid, **our state loses $3 billion meant to put a health insurance card in more Georgians' pockets**. For every $1 Georgia invests, we could receive $9 more from the federal government for health care.

Meanwhile, six rural Georgia hospitals have closed since 2013, and several more are struggling to serve a high number of patients who lack health coverage. One out of every four rural Georgians will not carry health insurance by 2026, according to the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Now is the time for state lawmakers to act.

Many Georgians without health coverage work in service industries and agriculture

Columbia County Stands to Gain

3,665 people in Columbia County could gain health coverage

$199 million

Uncompensated Care Provided by Hospitals in Central Savannah River Area

Accepting federal money already set aside to pay for health coverage would save Georgia an average of $200 million each year from lower costs of providing care to the uninsured.

You can make a difference for your community and help **put a health insurance card in more working Georgians' pockets.**

COVER GEORGIA

GEORGIANS FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

GBPI Georgia Budget & Policy Institute

Learn More at CoverGA.org

Coverage gains based on uninsured adults with incomes below 138 percent of federal poverty level using data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. Uncompensated care data from Georgia Department of Community Health, 2016 Hospital Financial Survey.