

## Statement on Expansion of Medicaid Eligibility



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**The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) supports the expansion of Medicaid under the terms of the Affordable Care Act in order to increase access to health care for a greater portion of the uninsured population in our state that includes persons with developmental disabilities and their families.**

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NCCDD supports reform measures and principles that provide individuals with consistent access to patient centered, timely, affordable and appropriate health care. Therefore, NCCDD supports the expansion of Medicaid for North Carolinians under the federal Affordable Care Act that would have covered an additional 568,000 residents by 2016. This includes an estimated 10,225 North Carolina residents with developmental disabilities and their families. A total of 28 states and District of Columbia have expanded Medicaid eligibility.

North Carolina would not only have the opportunity to serve a greater number of those waiting for needed services, but could also create a unique benefits package for the people newly eligible under these terms. As a result of expansion, North Carolina could improve the service array by adding more home and community based services, personal care, and habilitation services, defined as those that “assist individuals in acquiring, retaining and improving the self-help, socialization and adaptive skills necessary to reside successfully in home and community based settings” that are particularly important to those with long term support needs.

The Council recognizes the benefits Medicaid expansion can have for individuals with I/DD and their families. NCCDD believes that when making any changes to the healthcare financing and delivery system in our state, the health and well-being of the individual must be the priority.

NCCDD is directed by the federal The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) of 2000 (P.L. 106-402) to support and promote community inclusion and integration of people with developmental disabilities. The Council uses information about the system of service provision, disability-related issues, and consumer needs to develop projects and activities that address gaps and barriers in services and supports in order to help the estimated 180,000 persons in North Carolina with developmental disabilities live, work, and contribute to their communities.