



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Cover Maine Now! Releases County Data Supporting Accepting Federal Dollars for Health Care Coverage**

**AUGUSTA** – The Cover Maine Now! Coalition, which includes nearly 100 organizations, today released county-by-county information about the benefits of accepting federal dollars to expand access to health care for nearly 70,000 Mainers.

“Thousands of people in every county in the state would gain access to affordable health care if Maine accepts the federal funding already set aside under the ACA,” said Sara Gagné-Holmes, executive director of Maine Equal Justice Partners and a leader of the Cover Maine Now! Coalition. “The facts are clear: Expanding access to health care will save lives, create jobs and help the economy to grow. But more importantly, it will change the lives of our friends, family and neighbors for the better by providing them with access to preventive care. It’s the right thing to do.”

The data show that every county in Maine stands to gain from expansion of health care and that the number of people without health insurance will drop significantly, decreasing deaths, improving overall health and helping the economy to grow.

Maine stands to gain \$1 billion in federal funds over three years.

#### **Androscoggin:**

- 5,829 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$30 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$45 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 378 new jobs in the county.

**Aroostook:**

- 4,615 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$24 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$31 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 280 new jobs in the county.

**Cumberland:**

- 12,018 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$63 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$104 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 846 new jobs in the county.

**Franklin:**

- 1,878 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$10 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$13 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 123 new jobs in the county.

**Hancock:**

- 3,235 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$17 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$23 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 204 new jobs in the county.

**Kennebec:**

- 5,997 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$32 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$43 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 367 new jobs in the county.

**Knox:**

- 2,317 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$12 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$17 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 154 new jobs in the county.

**Lincoln:**

- 1,817 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$10 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$13 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 124 new jobs in the county.

**Oxford:**

- 3,806 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$20 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$25 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 231 new jobs in the county.

**Penobscot:**

- 8,447 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$45 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$66 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 545 new jobs in the county.

**Piscataquis:**

- 1,067 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$6 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$6 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 63 new jobs in the county.

**Sagadahoc:**

- 1,456 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$8 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$3 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 34 new jobs in the county.

**Somerset:**

- 3,590 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$19 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$23 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 207 new jobs in the county.

**Waldo:**

- 2,629 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$14 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$18 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 161 new jobs in the county.

**Washington:**

- 2,601 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$14 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$17 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 155 new jobs in the county.

**York:**

- 8,196 people would gain access to health care;
- An additional \$43 million will be spent annually on health care services by 2016, stimulating about \$59 million in additional economic activity; and
- Expansion would create approximately 513 new jobs in the county.

The federal government will pay 100 percent of the cost of covering “newly eligible” individuals for three years. After that, the federal contribution will continue but will be gradually adjusted until it reaches 90 percent in 2020.

For a full list of coalition members and to see the county-by-county fact sheets, visit:  
<http://www.covermainenow.com>.

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