



Family Investment Coalition™

Utah's Economy: It Starts With People

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Organizations Encourage Budget Transparency

Utah's Family Investment Coalition Calls for Two Budgets Reflecting Medicaid Expansion

Salt Lake City, UT – Organizations representing Utah's most vulnerable citizens including children, elderly, and disabled delivered a letter to Governor Gary R. Herbert today encouraging transparency with respect to the fiscal implications of whether to accept or reject the Medicaid Expansion funds provided by the federal government under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Utah's Family Investment Coalition (FIC) believes accepting the Medicaid Expansion is the fiscally responsible thing to do to fully support Utah families. As a result, the FIC hand-delivered a letter requesting the Governor release two FY 2015 budgets in December. One budget would reflect the fiscal impact of rejecting the Medicaid Expansion and the second reflecting the estimated \$11 million in savings realized in FY2015 if the state accepts the federal government's offer to fully finance Medicaid Expansion.

"Few decisions in our state's history will have as much impact as Utah's decision whether or not to expand Medicaid to cover low-income adults," stated the letter delivered this morning. The letter goes onto state, "There are real and significant fiscal implications beginning in FY2015 as a result of this decision."

According to a report commissioned by the Utah Department of Health (<http://www.health.utah.gov/documents/PCGUtahMedicaidExpansionAnalysis.pdf>), expanding Medicaid to approximately 123,000 Utahns would save the state over \$11 million in FY2015. The potential savings can be utilized to meet other important funding priorities in Utah.

"Two budgets will provide full transparency to the public and the legislature regarding the fiscal implications of the expansion," states the letter. "Utahns need to be informed of the lost opportunity if the state rejects Medicaid Expansion this year."

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In addition to missing out on the fiscal savings, failure to fully expand Medicaid will leave nearly 58,000 Utahns without insurance, jeopardizing already tenuous economic security and placing their health at risk. These individuals make too little income to qualify for government insurance subsidies under the provisions of the ACA but have too much income to qualify under current Medicaid rules.

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The Utah Family Investment Coalition (FIC) is a statewide nonpartisan coalition of organizations dedicated to helping all Utah families. We work to ensure that federal and state programs and services are adequate to support the needs of the community and revenues are collected fairly. For more information: <http://familyinvestmentcoalition.org>. The current chair of FIC is Jacob Brinkerhoff of the Community Action Partnership of Utah and the vice chair is Tracy S. Gruber of Voices for Utah Children.

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LEGISLATIVE COALITION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES•NEW FRONTIERS FOR FAMILIES•
THE ROAD HOME•SALT LAKE CATHOLIC DIOCESE•
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