

Medicaid Works

Key Job Sectors Benefit from Medicaid Expansion

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The Medicaid expansion made possible under the Affordable Care Act is a significant opportunity to invest in Virginia's workforce and provide health insurance coverage to a large number of people who are working in the most important parts of Virginia's economy.

Working Virginians will get health coverage

About 160,000 working Virginians who do not have health insurance would get coverage under the expansion. Expanding Medicaid will not only cover these workers but will boost the economy.

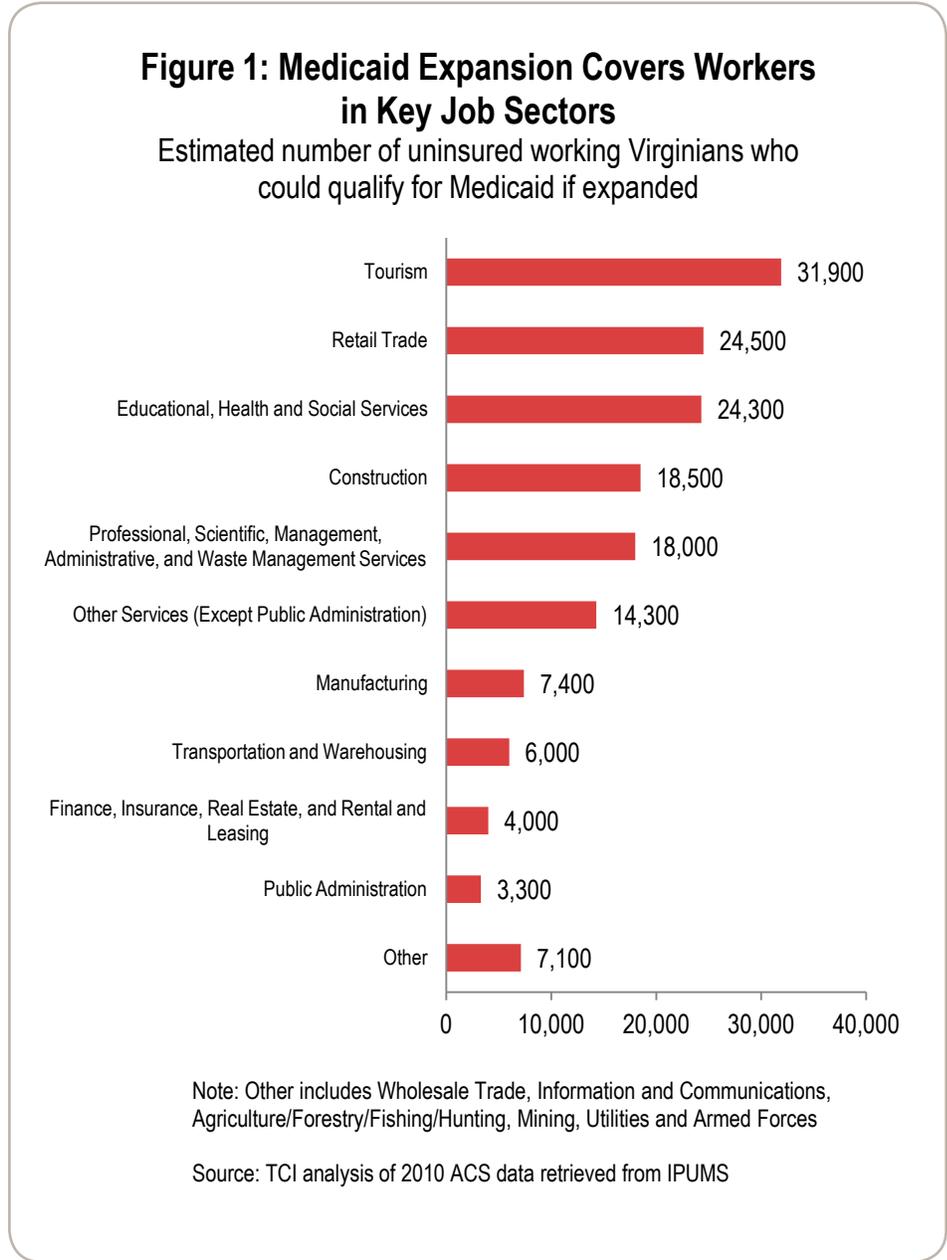
This report takes a close look at workers who would gain coverage from the Medicaid expansion in Virginia. Workers in five of the state's six largest employment sectors have the most to gain:

- Tourism;
- Retail Trade;
- Educational, Health, and Social Services;
- Construction;
- Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services.

Roughly 74 percent of uninsured low-income working adults newly eligible for coverage – about 117,500 people – work in those five industries.

They work in diverse and key sectors of Virginia's economy

These newly insured workers are employed in dozens of industries and occupations crucial to the commonwealth's economy. They are the cashiers, clerks and line wage earners you see every day.



The greatest gains from Medicaid expansion are in industries that include professions that take care of others, such as childcare workers, home health aides, janitors, and secretaries. Within each sector, newly eligible workers are concentrated in certain subsectors, with a large chunk in the state's critical tourism and related industries.

The biggest gains in health coverage are in the biggest sectors of Virginia's economy.

Sector: Tourism

- Restaurants and other food services: 25,800
- Traveler accommodation, such as hotels, inns, and motels: 3,000

Sector: Retail Trade

- Department and discount stores: 5,400
- Grocery stores: 4,300
- Clothing stores: 1,900

Sector: Educational, Health and Social Services

- Child day care service establishments: 5,100

- Elementary and secondary schools: 4,000
- Home health care service establishments: 3,000

Sector: Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services

- Landscaping service establishments: 4,000
- Janitorial, custodial services, cleaning, housekeeping, pest control services : 3,600
- Employment placement and temporary employment agencies: 2,500
- Business support service establishments, such as call centers or collection agencies: 1,800

Conclusion

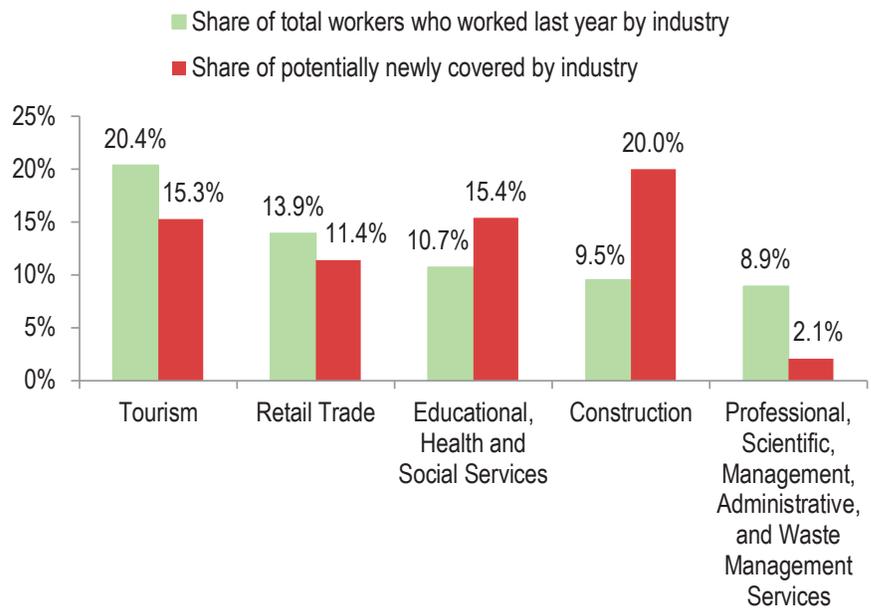
Expanding Medicaid is a smart investment in the hard working people who make their home in Virginia, raise their families here and make the economy tick. The 160,000 working Virginians that stand to gain coverage under the expansion are employed in the state’s largest and most important sectors of the economy. And because the expansion is fully federally funded in the early years and no less than 90 percent funded after that, it’s a bargain, too. If Virginia aims to rank among the best places to live, work and raise a family, expanding Medicaid is a smart investment.

Figure 2: Medicaid Expansion Covers Workers in Key Occupations

Occupation	TOTAL
Cashiers	9,700
Waiters and waitresses	7,900
Cooks	6,800
Retail salespersons	6,500
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	5,800
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	5,200
Childcare workers	4,900
Janitors and building cleaners	4,700
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	4,600
Construction laborers	4,500
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	4,300
Grounds maintenance workers	3,400
Carpenters	3,000
First-line supervisors of retail sales workers	2,800
Personal care aides	2,700
Painters, construction and maintenance	2,600
Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists	2,500
Food preparation workers	2,300
Secretaries and administrative assistants	2,200
Stock clerks and order fillers	2,000

Source: TCI analysis of 2010 ACS 1-Year Estimates

Figure 3: Virginia's Five Largest Sectors Stand To Benefit from Medicaid Expansion



Source: TCI analysis of 2010 ACS data retrieved from IPUMS

The Commonwealth Institute

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