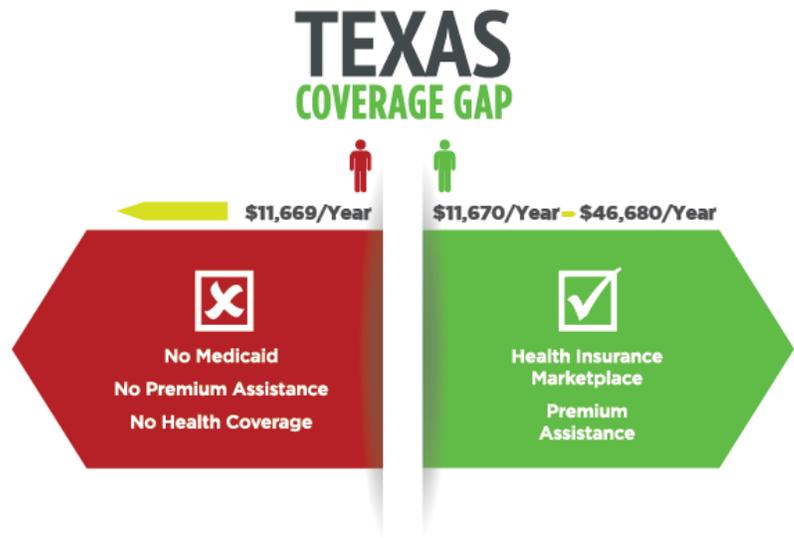




Texas Community Health Centers

Find a Texas solution to close the health care coverage gap.

Uninsured, low-income workers making between 100 and 400 percent of poverty can now receive subsidies to help purchase affordable health coverage in the Health Insurance Marketplace. However, because of the state’s decision to turn down federal funds to expand health coverage to Texans below the poverty line, **more than a million of the state’s poorest adults have been left in a coverage gap**, relying on safety net providers like community health centers to provide access to primary care services. When safety net services aren’t available, or if services beyond primary care are needed, lack of health coverage and access leads to delay of care and use of emergency rooms for routine care, **increasing long-term costs in the health care system.**



Texas taxpayers are already picking up the tab for health care for low-income Texans, but we are paying for it **three times**: through federal taxes we pay regardless of coverage expansion, sales taxes that fund state indigent health care programs, and property taxes that pay for hospital uncompensated care and county indigent care programs. Alternately, if Texas finds a solution to close the coverage gap, federal dollars would not pay less than **90 percent** of the cost of care for this population, freeing up state and local resources for other critical local needs. Texans are paying these federal taxes anyway, but they are being redistributed instead of coming back to Texas. This loss of federal funds equals a **\$16 billion** loss for Texas taxpayers between 2014 and 2016, or over **\$15.5 million per day in 2015.**

A Texas solution for closing the coverage gap should include certain principles to ensure a program is designed that puts the interests of both patients and taxpayers first. The federal government has shown that compromise is attainable, and states can request to waive certain requirements based on specific state priorities.

A majority of states have already solved this problem. Texas can too. **Health centers urge lawmakers to find a solution to close the coverage gap that saves money in the health care system, eases local tax burdens, ensures Texas taxpayer dollars are funneled back into the Texas economy and promotes a stronger, healthier Texas.**