

March 2024

## ISSUE BRIEF



# Georgia's Projected Economic Growth from Medicaid Expansion

This publication serves as a companion piece to Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI)'s report, *Economic Impacts of Medicaid Expansion in Georgia*, (REMI Report), which can be accessed [here](#).

As of March 2024, Georgia remains one of 10 states that has yet to expand Medicaid coverage. In addition to lower uninsured rates and increased access to care for individuals gaining coverage, expansion states have also experienced substantial economic and job growth at the state and local levels.

The Affordable Care Act allows states to expand their Medicaid programs to cover adults earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level (\$43,056 for a family of four in Georgia). **The federal government pays 90 percent of the costs for covering this new expansion population, with the state covering the remaining 10 percent.** In addition, a provision in the American Rescue Plan Act incentivizes states that had not expanded Medicaid as of March 11, 2021 with an **additional 5 percentage point federal match** towards the cost of covering existing enrollees from the traditional Medicaid population during the first two years of expansion.

Georgia Health Initiative is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire and promote collective action that advances health equity for all Georgians. The Initiative commissioned REMI to perform a state- and county-level economic impact analysis of expanding Medicaid in Georgia. REMI based its analysis on a legislative fiscal note issued by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts in late February 2024, and estimated the impact Medicaid expansion would have on total employment, economic output, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), personal income, and population. For more information on the methodology, see the REMI report.

**This Issue Brief highlights some of the findings that emerged from REMI's economic analysis.**

# Key Findings

Medicaid expansion would spur job creation, grow our state economy, and increase Georgians' personal incomes across the state.



Medicaid expansion would have a **positive impact** on Georgia's economy across five key areas: **total employment, economic output, GDP, personal income, and population.**



Medicaid expansion in Georgia would generate **an average of 51,264 new jobs statewide** each year in its first three years.

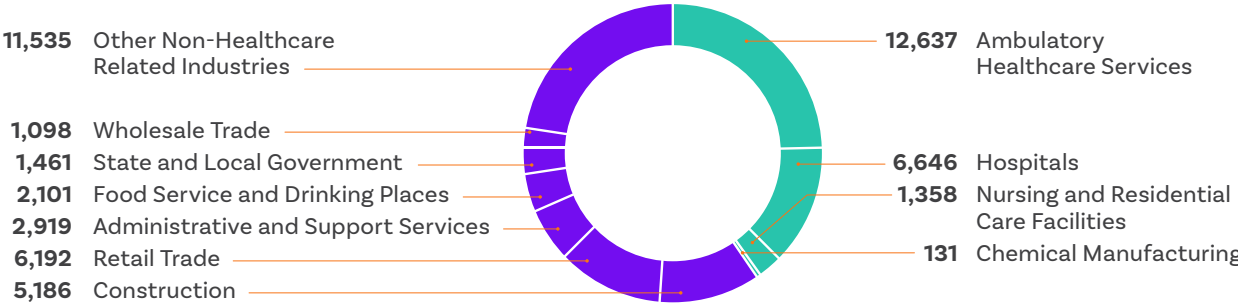


Over the first three years of Medicaid expansion, Georgians would see **an increase of \$3.6 billion in personal income in an average year**, representing an average increase of almost **\$900 per household.**

A majority of economic growth would be spread throughout the economy, outside of the healthcare industry. More than half of the new jobs created would be non-healthcare related.

## Annual Growth of New Jobs by Sector

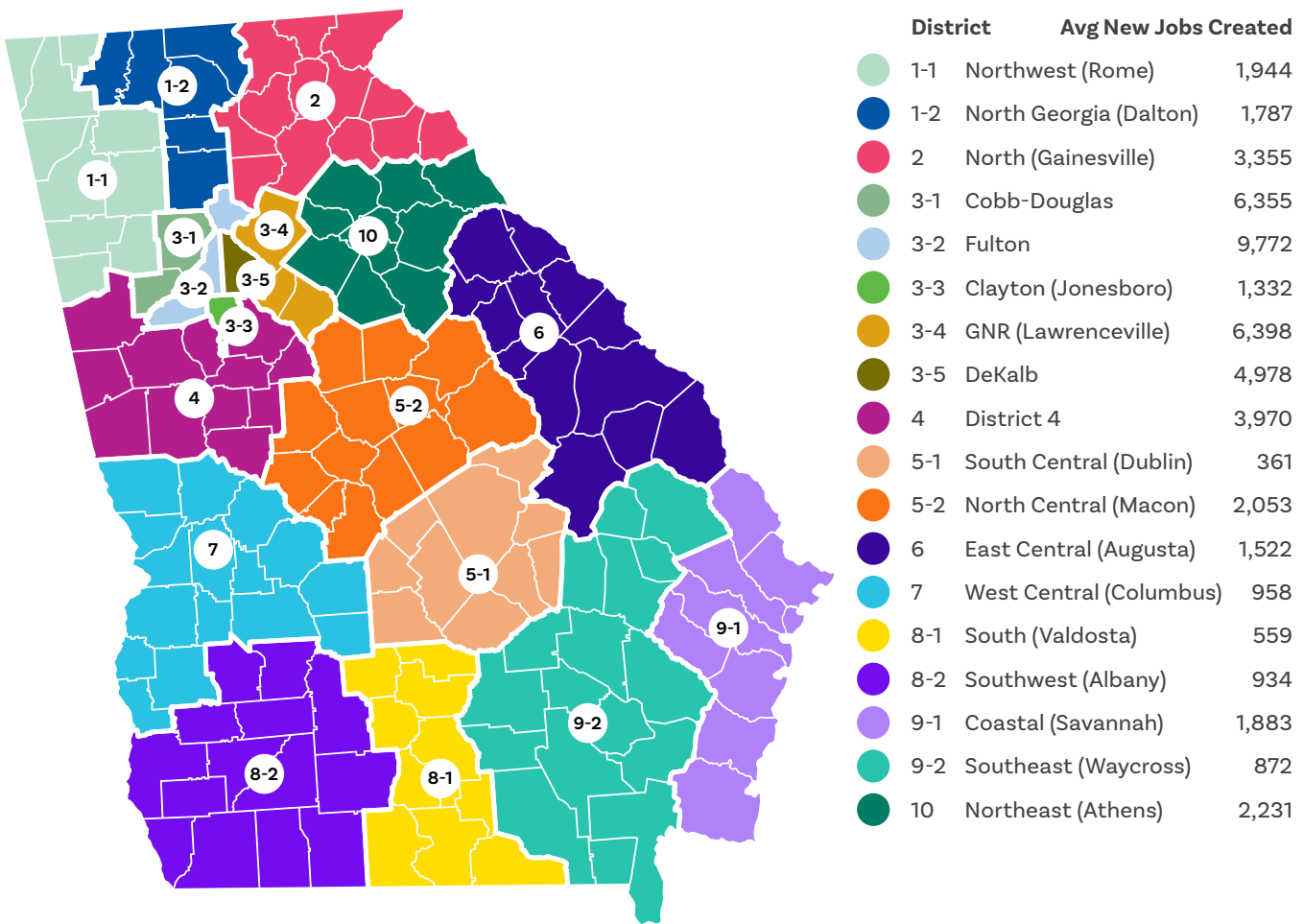
**Non-Healthcare Related Sectors**  
**Healthcare Related Sectors**



Expanding Medicaid in Georgia is projected to generate an annual average of **5,186 new jobs in construction.**

# Job growth would be felt across the state.

## Projected Annual Job Growth by Public Health District



These Public Health Districts are designated by the Georgia Department of Public Health. For specific county-level data, [see the REMI Report](#).

**In addition to extending health coverage to uninsured Georgians living in rural communities, Medicaid expansion would also strengthen Georgia’s rural economy.**



Adding an average of **5,611 new rural jobs** each year for the first three years.

**Increasing personal income for Georgians living in rural areas by an estimated \$477.3 million** each year for the first three years.

# Medicaid expansion is good for Georgians' health - and a catalyst for Georgia's economy.



In the first three years of Medicaid expansion, **Georgia's economy is forecasted to increase by \$9.4 billion in economic output and \$5.5 billion in GDP on average each year.** Expansion would stimulate significant non-healthcare related consumer spending, increased supply chain demand, and growth in investment activity, among other effects.

REMI's report points to Medicaid expansion substantially growing Georgia's diverse economy, with benefits felt across business sectors and at every level within the state, down to individual households. These data indicate that expansion would serve as a win-win for Georgia - improving access to healthcare for Georgians and boosting our state's economy.

Please direct any questions to Cindy Zeldin, Georgia Health Initiative's Vice President of Health Policy and Government Affairs, at [cindy@georgiahealthinitiative.org](mailto:cindy@georgiahealthinitiative.org)



## SOURCE:

The data referenced in this Issue Brief come from *Economic Impacts of Medicaid Expansion in Georgia, March 2024*, authored by **Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI)**. REMI is an independent company with offices in Amherst, MA and Washington, D.C. that provides non-partisan economic analysis and modeling software to its clients, who include federal, state, and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, universities, and private companies. See the REMI report here: <https://georgiahealthinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Georgia-Medicaid-Expansion-Economic-Impact-Report-REMI-March-2024-.pdf>