

DATE: 6-15-2016  
 TO: Buffalo County Officials  
 FROM: Joy Smolnisky, Exe. Dir., SD Budget & Policy Institute  
 RE: Updated census data on uninsured in your County – and their eligibility for Medicaid expansion

A few years ago we<sup>i</sup> provided you with the detailed census estimates of how many low-income uninsured residents in your county would be eligible if the state expanded Medicaid. Now, with Governor Dugaard’s success developing a strategy that makes sense for South Dakota at no increased cost to the state, we felt we ought to update that data to reflect the latest census figures.

*Under Medicaid expansion, over 150 low-income uninsured adults in Buffalo County will gain coverage—meaning they will no longer have to go without needed care, over-utilize emergency services or depend on the County to cover unpaid hospital bills.*

### How will the Governor’s plan impact Buffalo County?

*Recently released census details<sup>ii</sup> estimates 27% (290) of non-elderly<sup>iii</sup> adults in Buffalo County are uninsured.*

Households with incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) aren’t eligible for subsidized insurance on the Exchange.

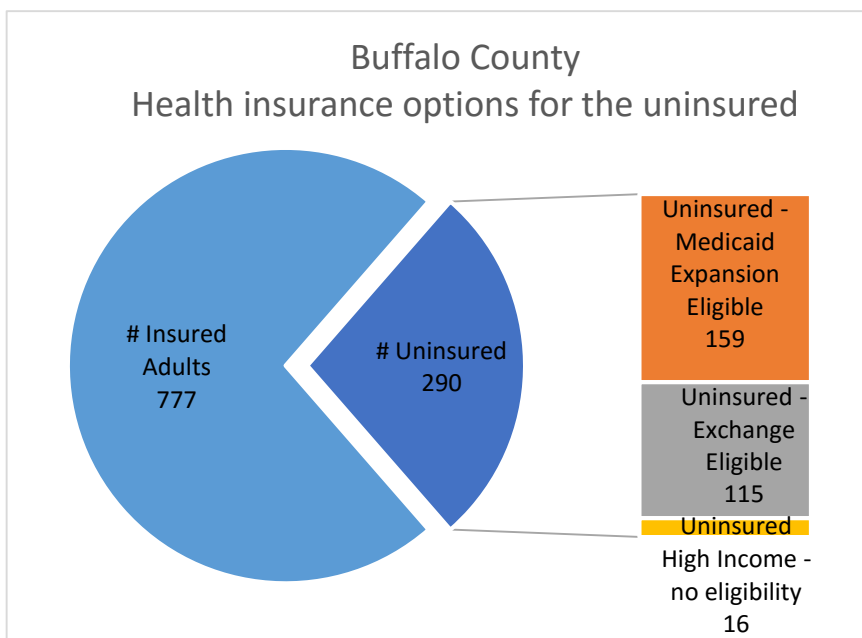
Expanding Medicaid would cover 159 currently uninsured adults in Buffalo County with incomes up to 138% of the FPL.

The 115 uninsured Buffalo County residents with incomes between 138% and 400% are eligible for exchange tax subsidies if they choose to buy insurance on the Exchange.

The 16 uninsured adults in higher income households (over 400% of the FPL) are not eligible for subsidies but are guaranteed access to coverage without medical underwriting cost penalties if they have existing medical conditions.

Feel free to contact Joy at SD Budget & Policy Institute if you have questions on this research.

| 2016 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) |           |           |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Household Size                   | 100%      | 138%      | 400%      |
| 1                                | \$ 11,770 | \$ 16,242 | \$ 47,080 |
| 2                                | \$ 15,930 | \$ 21,983 | \$ 63,720 |
| 3                                | \$ 20,090 | \$ 27,724 | \$ 80,360 |
| 4                                | \$ 24,250 | \$ 33,465 | \$ 97,000 |



<sup>i</sup> South Dakota Budget & Policy Institute. County Specific graphs – uninsured eligible for health insurance under Medicaid expansion and federal exchange subsidies. 5-12-13 <http://www.sdbpi.org/sd-county-specific-graphs-uninsured-eligible-for-health-insurance-under-medicaid-expansion-and-federal-exchange-subsidies>

<sup>ii</sup> US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates for 2014. Released May 2016.

<sup>iii</sup> We look at non-elderly adults—age 19-64—because they are the low income population covered by Medicaid Expansion. SD Elders (65+) are already covered by Medicare and low-income children (0-18) are covered by the Children’s Health Insurance Program.