

# EXPANDING COVERAGE FOR FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

## BACKGROUND

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- According to a recent population-based study of 1,200 Utahns conducted by the University of Utah, 74% of Utahns "agree" or "strongly agree" that "states that restrict abortion should invest in services that expand contraceptive access"
  - Support for expanded access was high across regions, political affiliations, and religious identities.
- The most common reasons people were unable to get their desired method(s) of birth control were their health insurance would not cover it or it was too expensive to afford
- In Utah, there continues to be a coverage gap for people in need of family planning services
  - Family planning services are only available to Medicaid recipients earning up to 138% of the FPL
    - approximately 80,000 Utahns lack contraceptive coverage
- The family planning option is commonly utilized in "Red" States-28 states across the country that have extended Medicaid for family planning services
- Family planning access supports healthy pregnancies and reduces abortion and miscarriages.
- Contraceptive medications are also essential medications and are used to treat dozens of other medical conditions (e.g. painful periods, PCOS, endometriosis, etc.).

## WHAT WOULD A MEDICAID FAMILY PLANNING OPTION DO?

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- Directs the Medicaid program to apply for an automatic, pre-approved federal waiver with a 90/10 match rate that extends family planning services to adult individuals who:
  - Have an income equal to or below 185% FPL
  - Do not qualify for traditional Medicaid
- Covered family planning services would include counseling and clinical services, medical diagnosis and preventative care, and standard contraception methods
- It does not cover abortion care

## BENEFITS OF ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

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- Access to contraception allows people to plan their lives, achieve their goals, and build healthy families.
- Local data shows a positive economic trajectory for individuals with access to low and no-cost contraception
- Contraceptive access decreases the number of unintended pregnancies, as well as abortions and miscarriages
  - A Medicaid family planning option is estimated to prevent 2,340 unintended pregnancies, and 790 abortions, and 450 miscarriages following unintended pregnancies.
- Access to contraception supports women's educational goal and participation in the workforce

## ECONOMICALLY SOUND & FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

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- A family planning option of 250% is estimated to cost the state \$568,300 which is about \$51 per person served-the 185% therefore would cost the state less than \$50 per person
- Family planning has a return on investment (ROI) of \$7.09 for every public dollar spent
  - Comparatively, Utah Economic Development Tax Increment Finance (EDTIF) has a ROI of \$3.80 and early childhood education has a ROI of \$4-9
- Existing public family planning programs have been proven to be budget neutral and cost-saving
- A Medicaid family planning option is estimated to save Utah taxpayers \$12.7 million per year in healthcare costs