



# HEALTH POLICY PRIORITIES

## 2018 MISSOURI POLICY AGENDA

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### Enact Fiscal Policies That Help Missourians Thrive

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The REACH Foundation urges lawmakers to revise state tax policies to ensure adequate revenues are invested in core services and programs that help Missouri workers and families thrive.

- Missouri's tax policies are not producing adequate revenue to meet basic public needs, as seen with recent budget decisions that resulted in cuts to services for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- Lawmakers now have the opportunity to revisit tax policies such as the business income tax exemption that, once triggered, will contribute to further destabilization of revenues. National tax experts have stated these types of provisions will not help the state achieve its long-term economic goals.
- Our neighbors in Kansas enacted similar tax policies that led to devastating cuts to education, health and transportation. These failed tax policies are now being reversed with broad bipartisan support.

### Close The Coverage Gap

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The REACH Foundation supports expansion of Medicaid to close the health coverage gap that affects thousands of low-income, working adults and families in Missouri.

- Nearly 300,000 Missourians are left out of health coverage because state leaders have declined to expand Medicaid, forfeiting billions in federal resources that could support health, mental health and oral health care throughout the state.
- Missouri adults without children cannot qualify for Medicaid in Missouri. For adults with children, eligibility stops at 22% of federal poverty level - the third lowest rate in the nation.
- Federal Medicaid resources have contributed substantially to funding of mental health services in Missouri. As lawmakers grapple with Missouri's mental health care needs and rising rates of substance abuse, Medicaid expansion presents an opportunity to leverage additional resources to support treatment and other programs.