Medicaid Expansion

Medicaid, not to be confused with Medicare, is the “United States health program for low income individuals and families with limited incomes and resources.” The program is jointly funded by the federal and state governments and managed by the states. Unlike Medicare, Medicaid eligibility is solely determined by an individual’s income level. In this 2014 graph, the ACA allowed states to expand Medicaid eligibility up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level. States that elected to expand Medicaid were required to cover the uninsured adults without children, the ACA would have required states to cover nonelderly adults with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) (NPR). Having said that, Medicaid coverage is limited to certain group of individuals and unlikely to cover low income adults without children, the ACA would have required states to cover nonelderly adults with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level. States that expanded Medicaid coverage to include people under age 65 with permanent disabilities (KFF). Medicare is a federal health insurance program that covers medical expenses for people who are age 65 and older, regardless of income or medical history, as well as nonelderly people who have certain disabilities or are spouses of deceased Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare was expanded in 1972 to cover a wider range of people with disabilities who are unable to work, including those with early-onset disabilities. Medicaid is a joint federal-state program that helps pay for healthcare for low-income individuals and families. Medicaid is run in California while Massachusetts operates MassHealth. Children and pregnant women), aged and disabled. Thus, not every person with pre-existing conditions can apply for this program. Medicare adds free preventive care for everyone (ages 55–65) as well as services for early retirees. Massachusetts was a state that enacted its own Medicaid program before the federal government and therefore had the opportunity to create a more robust program. The Model: Massachusetts

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