Medicaid Expansion: An Essential Tool to Fight HIV and Health Disparities

As of March 2014, 25 state governments are not expanding Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) even though the vast majority of costs would be covered by the federal government. In these states, an estimated 8.5 million uninsured Americans who would have qualified for full Medicaid coverage will most likely remain uninsured. Black Americans – the racial group most affected by HIV – are approximately twice as likely as other Americans to fall into this category. Denying Medicaid coverage to Americans in poverty impedes efforts to deliver care to people living with HIV (PLWH), reduce health disparities, and prevent the spread of HIV and other diseases.

HIV PREVALENCE AND % OF DIAGNOSED PLWH WHO ARE BLACK IN STATES NOT EXPANDING MEDICAID

BLACK AMERICANS IN STATES NOT EXPANDING MEDICAID ARE:

- Twice as likely to be uninsured while meeting the eligibility criteria for Medicaid if their state chooses to expand eligibility through the ACA
- More than 6 times as likely to be diagnosed with HIV

Even though people who are black make up only 15% of the population in these states, blacks make up 25% of uninsured people who could have access to Medicaid if their state had expanded Medicaid through the ACA.