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 **news release**

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 **Benefits of Extending Medicaid Are Substantial**

CONCORD – Today’s report from the Lewin Group confirms that the benefits of extending Medicaid to low-income adults would be substantial for New Hampshire -- helping families, employers and the state economy.

“Based on Lewin’s calculations, New Hampshire could insure 40 percent more people with an increase of just over one quarter of a percent in state costs,” said Policy Analyst Deb Fournier, of the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute.

 “The $2.5 billion in federal dollars coming to New Hampshire as part of the new Medicaid rules would stimulate the economy, add jobs and contribute to a healthier workforce,” she added.

Fournier is among the researchers who’ve studied the costs and benefits of extending Medicaid and concluded it would provide a significant boost for the state if we participate starting in 2014.

“Any delay, of course, would add to the costs New Hampshire will bear down the road since the bulk of the benefits –at least financially -- come in the first three years,” she noted, referring to the 100 percent federal reimbursement rate for Medicaid expansion through 2017.

If the federal government were to change its commitment to funding the extended Medicaid program in the future, the law allows New Hampshire to withdraw at any time.

NHFPI’s report on the costs and benefits of extending Medicaid is available at: <http://www.nhfpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/ACA-Medicaid-Coverage-Option-FINAL1.pdf>

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