

Wyoming Hospital Association

Newsbriefs

New Study on Medicaid Expansion



With Medicaid expansion back in the state's spotlight this year, a pair of new studies highlight the potential benefits that could come to Wyoming workers, as well as the state's employment numbers, if lawmakers decide to opt into the federal program.

One of them, conducted by the Commonwealth Fund and George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health, projected that Medicaid expansion would create 1,900 jobs in Wyoming, with about two-thirds of those coming in the health care industry. The study's lead author, Leighton Ku, said the new employment opportunities would come as a result of more than \$100 million in additional federal funds coming to the state.

Medicaid is a government health insurance program that in Wyoming

mostly covers pregnant women and low-income children. Expansion would allow many low-income adults to enroll as well. All but 12 states have elected to expand their programs, but lawmakers here have debated for nearly a decade whether to take that step. Cost has been the main concern.

The Biden administration is hoping to entice the holdouts by offering a two-year bonus in the federal money those states receive to pay Medicaid costs. Wyoming policy analysts estimate that bonus would save the state \$34 million over the next two years after subtracting the \$20 million it would have to contribute.

The report can be found at <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2021/may/economic-employment-effects-medicaid-expansion-under-arp>

WHA Resources Endorses Well Advised

Wyoming Hospital Association is proud to endorse Well Advised and the free services it can provide to your Medicare patients to pave the way for optimum clinical and financial coverage .

Well Advised, a free, confidential and simple internet resource which facilitates coverage choice that guides Medicare consumers through identification of their

optimal health coverage based on their unique preferences and needs. Well Advised combines artificial intelligence and data science to evaluate all plans from all carriers in the Wyoming market and gives patients and consumers independent and unbiased plan recommendations. Well Advised continually tracks all changes in health plans,

provider networks, drug formularies, therapies and treatments, and alerts users when better clinical options become available.

For more information contact Josh Hannes, WHA Vice President at josh@wyohospitals.com or 307-632-9344





**2021
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Uber begins offering free rides to vaccinations.

The Uber app is offering up to \$25 off each ride to and from an eligible vaccination site between May 24 and July 4, for up to two round-trips rides spaced three weeks apart, the company announced yesterday. President Biden this month announced a plan to reach at least 70% of U.S. adults with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine by July 4. "We are proud to work with the White House to help achieve this goal and make it as easy as possible for all Americans to get vaccinated," the company said. The company also has integrated data on vaccine sites directly into the app to help users find nearby sites.

**WHA Golf Tournament—September, 7
Paradise Valley Golf Club, Casper
WHA Annual Meeting—September 8-9
Clarion Inn, Casper, Wyoming**



Sheridan Memorial Hospital Foundation Continues Tradition Of Support for Excellent Patient Care

Thanks to generous gifts from planned giving and The Link annual event participants and sponsors, the Sheridan Memorial Hospital Foundation Board approved funding for over \$325,000 in vital equipment upgrades at the hospital. The funding supports the replacement of equipment, which ensures excellent patient-centered care throughout the hospital.

According to Cody Sinclair, Chief Development Officer, "The Foundation is grateful for our community's ongoing support. This tradition of healthcare philanthropy helps ensure our expert physicians and care teams have the equipment and technology necessary to provide the care our community has come to appreciate and value."

Specific funding announced today will purchase needed cardiology EKG (electrocardiogram) equipment to monitor various heart conditions in Internal Medicine, the Heart Center, Griffith Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, and the Cardiac Cath Lab. This equipment supports patient safety as well as faster turnaround time for physician diagnosis. The funds will also support the upgrade and replacement of the video monitoring system in the Cath Lab. The improved technology and additional capacity will provide clear and precise views during procedures, support quality care and patient safety in the Cath Lab.

This special cardiology equipment purchase is possible through a planned gift from The Lorraine S. Husman Trust.

The other vital piece of equipment approved for funding is known as a Gamma Finder. Used in the operating room by the hospital's surgeons and clinical staff, it allows the team to identify potential cancer nodes and, if indicated, an actual biopsy completed during the procedure. The Foundation's Annual Link - Partners in Pink event proceeds used to make this purchase support cancer care, prevention, screening, and early cancer detection for our patients.



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