

# The Healthy Idaho Plan: Five Facts



## The Healthy Idaho Plan Saves Idaho Tax Dollars

The Healthy Idaho Plan would directly save Idaho millions in state and local funds for years to come because other state-funded programs could be eliminated. Additionally, the economic boost would generate new revenues. Idaho stands to gain a total of \$653 million over the next decade.

The state will likely reap additional savings that are difficult to estimate, including reduced costs for corrections, law enforcement, emergency response, and courts, since these systems are often the only response available for untreated mental and behavior health problems.



## The Healthy Idaho Plan Means Property Tax Relief for Idaho

The Healthy Idaho Plan will essentially eliminate the need for our county-administered indigent care programs. County tax savings coupled with new property tax revenues from the economic boost total \$480 million. This will result in significant property tax reductions for Idaho residents and businesses.



## The Healthy Idaho Plan Eliminates Tax Penalties

Under the Affordable Care Act, some employers can face fines if their employees access tax credits on the health insurance exchange. These penalties take effect in 2015. There are no such penalties if employees are able to access coverage through the Healthy Idaho Plan.

Jackson-Hewitt estimates that Idaho employers will face \$12 to \$18 million in avoidable penalties for residents between 100% to 138% of the federal poverty level in 2015.



## The Healthy Idaho Plan Eliminates the Penalty for Families

Currently, parents face a penalty compared to childless Idahoans at the same wage. A single, childless worker earning minimum wage qualifies for help purchasing coverage in the health insurance exchange. If that same worker is the breadwinner for a family, the family's income will fall below the poverty level and the parents will find themselves in the coverage gap. The Healthy Idaho Plan provides an affordable health care option for parents in the coverage gap.



## The Healthy Idaho Plan Encourages Work

Idaho parents are only eligible for Medicaid at extremely low income levels (26% of the federal poverty level, or \$6,305 for a family of four). Idaho parents in the coverage gap earn too much to qualify for Medicaid and too little to qualify for assistance in the health exchange. If these Idahoans become injured or have an illness requiring care, their only way to get affordable coverage is to quit working. With the Healthy Idaho Plan, a mother or father who needs health care can get coverage while continuing to work.

**Idaho Voices for Children**  
1607 W. Jefferson Street  
Boise, ID 83702  
Phone: (208) 388-1014  
Fax: (208) 336-0880  
[www.idahovoices.org](http://www.idahovoices.org)

