

**DENTAL:**

*This regulation covers 2 cleanings per year, fillings, dentures, root canals, crowns, extractions, restorations, some implants, and periodontics. Previously, adults were only eligible for one annual cleaning, extractions, and limited fillings. Please tell us how these additional services would affect you, your family, or your community.*

"Comprehensive dental services prevent all sorts of chronic health conditions and substance use disorders." **(Jefferson Co)**

"People need teeth." **(Warren Co)**

"Covering two cleanings per year is vital to meeting the recommendations of KY dentists and creating parity with private insurance. Dental health is a huge indicator of overall health, and providing these services is a key step towards getting people healthy and maximizing their potential." **(Warren Co)**

"Expanding dental services would help improve the overall health of Kentuckians. Taking care of our teeth is just as important as taking care of the rest of our bodies." **(Franklin Co)**

"Everyone should have access to basic dental services at least two times per year." **(Fayette Co)**

"Dental health is an integral component of overall well-being, not to mention its role in the ability to chew and swallow." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Dental care is essential for health and participation in the community/school system. Give our people a chance to stay healthy and employed." **(Oldham Co)**

"This is so much needed. Dental health is a large portion of a person's health and should be treated as so." **(Lawrence Co)**

"These services will ensure that people get the necessary treatment that they need for proper dental cleaning and learn if the possibly have any other factors that they are not aware of that could be taken care to prolong their life." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Kentucky consistently ranks one of the lowest in oral health. Oral health is a huge issue in terms of quality of life, physical and mental health and impacts a person's ability to work. The above additional care would provide low-income Kentuckians with the kind of basic preventative and restorative care that will improve outcomes." **(Jefferson Co)**

"These are vital services that everyone would benefit from." **(Rockcastle Co)**

"Oral health is essential to overall health and there should be no limit on care." **(Perry Co)**

"Would be needed." **(Henderson Co)**

"These services are crucial for equitable care for all Kentuckians. Lack of these services contribute to poor dental health, inability to maintain a healthy lifestyle, a higher risk of many health conditions, and barriers to employment." **(Fayette Co)**

"Awesome. Wish it could make it more affordable for everyone." **(Garrard Co)**

**DENTAL:**

"Would help me so much. I need dentures so bad. My teeth are in horrible condition but no dentist that takes my insurance is close to where I live." **(Fulton Co)**

"Positive impact." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Proper dental care is equally as important as physical and mental health care. Affordable and accessible dental care should be part of overall Medicaid services." **(Fayette Co)**

"Helped with braces and aftercare for my son." **(Jefferson Co)**

"I work with refugee clients and newcomers who are trying to get healthy and start working here in the United States. So many of them arrive with dental issues and pain - allowing them to get ahead of infections and take care of existing problems right away would allow them to adjust to life here so much more smoothly." **(Jefferson Co)**

"I could actually go to the dentist in a timely manner as instructed and hopefully prevent issues." **(Jefferson Co)**

"My patients need to have enhanced dental coverage. Many are missing teeth which can impede taking medications." **(Jefferson Co)**

"This would be a huge milestone; many low-income clients I work with avoid dental care due to costs, so including more services would greatly improve their health. Including services would reduce higher costs long term by using prevention." **(Jefferson Co)**

"There are several families who will benefit with the mentioned services. But I would advocate for emergency dental care." **(Jefferson Co)**

"As a community health worker that has accompanied patients with Medicaid to dental visits. It is very important to cover dental care because dental health affects the general health of the person. People that need root canals have been having to have extractions due to cost. Or have had to wait a long time to be seen at a health center dental clinic. They are often uncomfortable due to pain. Good preventative care is important to minimize the amount of invasive procedures such as root canals needed." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Many Kentuckians struggle with oral health. Expanded coverage can only be a good thing for the people of this state. I personally have had a very hard time finding dentists who accept Medicaid. But for the ones who do, being able to cover a wider variety of services will tremendously help many people in my community." **(Campbell Co)**

"Dental services are a medical necessity and should be covered and expanded." **(Campbell Co)**

"My husband has lived in a constant state of pain because of how bad his teeth are. He has had multiple infections including sepsis because of this. With this new regulation he will be able to have his teeth taken care of be free of infections. He'll smile again." **(Jefferson Co)**

"The dental services would be great. I have Medicaid but I still put off going off to the dentist, even now because I already had some fillings this same year - I can't afford to pay what my health coverage. (Medicaid) won't." **(Laurel Co)**

### **DENTAL:**

“Providing coverage to adult Medicaid recipients for two preventive cleaning, extraction, and filling services should enhance dental health greatly and make more extensive, costly services less necessary. Appropriate preventive and treatment dental care should enable clients to be more able to engage in familial, social, education, and employment activities. This will lead to more achieving self-sufficiency. Adequate dentition enables improved nutrition and overall health. A significant advantage is that clients will suffer less with pain and other preventable and treatable symptoms.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“This does not impact me personally, but I support expanded coverage for the people who benefit from these programs.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“This coverage would be very beneficial to myself, and other Medicaid members! The cost of these services are nearly unreasonable for me being lower income.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“A must have!” **(Washington Co)**

“Wow I would no longer be afraid to go to the dentist and feel I have to let my teeth rot.” **(Boyle Co)**

“I’m in desperate need of dentures so I can return to work. I’m a single mother and just can’t afford the price of dentures.” **(Harlan Co)**

“I’d use both annual cleanings but haven’t needed the other services listed yet.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“I have suffered from a painful broken tooth on my right and cracked root on the same tooth on my left for the last 3 years because I’m better off having a broken tooth than a missing tooth because I cannot afford a replacement. I have 3 teeth missing already due to my wisdom teeth putting too much pressure on my back teeth and eating is a chore. Each bite is taken to one side or the other depending on which hurts the most that meal. Anticipating pain while I chew takes the joy out of eating. Then post meal I used a dental pick to pull food out of my gums that got there by my tooth literally splitting apart while I ate. I have recently been diagnosed with hyper mobility dysfunction which can lead to loosening of teeth due to connective tissue issues. I’m so afraid I will lose my teeth and not be able to afford replacements. I’m only 45 and limitations having no teeth put on a person’s diet is a hard pill to swallow. The Government sees dental care as a cosmetic issue, but dental care is a health issue. Having bad teeth and gums increases heart disease and the risk of strokes. Having your teeth pulled without proper replacement causes nutrient deficiencies and also mental health issues. Having dental care that covers more than just one cleaning a year and extractions or fillings is not enough to help keep people healthy....it should be a medical necessity to provide all essential dental care for everyone!” **(Jefferson Co)**

“This is incredibly important. Good dental care is critical for many reasons, but health and employability are two that stand out. As a social worker, I have seen many people affected negatively by tooth issues including pain, missing teeth, and crooked teeth. Expanding services positively affects people’s health and their ability to be hired into a greater number of jobs.” **(Garrard Co)**

“It is important for my community to have access to typical dental services, as this normalizes and thus educates persons who were not raised in a subculture which valued these services. Preventive dental care prevents more expensive care later!” **(Kenton Co)**

## **DENTAL:**

“Dental health is vital to overall health. Research clearly supports links between poor oral health and heart disease, so as a preventative measure to save us money in the long run, we should be supporting and encouraging good oral health with preventative care like cleanings and fillings. Additionally, we are facing a serious shortage of customer service employees in Kentucky, and it is much easier for people to be hired for, and perform that work when they can confidently smile, and speak clearly. This is largely dependent on having teeth. We need to make sure that this is a benefit that is extended to Kentuckians so that they can continue to work.” **(Warren Co)**

“Lack of dental care can lead to many health issues including death. Treat the whole person.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“These regulations will help prevent infections and emergency extractions, offering less costly preventative dental care.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“This is so important for the community. Teeth should be a basic human right and should be covered on your insurance to fix them. If people lose their teeth, they are more likely to turn to substance use or alcohol out of depression or pain management.” **(Rowan Co)**

“Oral health care is a huge issue affecting overall community health. Poor oral health can have developmental impacts on youth, and it can affect employability and overall health in adults. Untreated oral disease can impact heart health and maternal health, as well. The cost of NOT providing oral health care far exceeds the cost of providing the service.” **(Hopkins Co)**

“Coverage of semi-annual dental care allows Medicaid beneficiaries to receive the services that their dentist recommends without having out of pocket costs, or simply not receiving that care. This allows for more timely intervention and prevents more extensive dental work due to the time that might lapse between services. It is so very important for our working force to present a more pleasant appearance with coverage of services above and beyond simple extractions. Many of our older adults have gone for years without dentures, which affects their physical health and nutrition, as well as their mental well-being.” **(Warren Co)**

“Preventative dental health is a huge contributor to cost savings by heading off serious infection and disease pathways. In addition, the embarrassment from poor teeth, the pain from unresolved issues, and the ability to speak, eat, and interact normally are critical to being ‘job-ready.’” **(Madison Co)**

“I am a Community Health Worker in a rural community and work with clients everyday who are in dire need for dental services. Access to quality dental care has been a barrier in our community for quite some time. The consequences of this barrier not only affect individuals’ physical health, but their mental health as well. Having access to these dental services would greatly increase physical and mental health in our community, preventing long term chronic conditions caused by the negligence of dental care.” **(Graves Co)**

“That’s awesome.” **(Bullitt Co)**

“The appearance of my teeth impacts my life Every day - I avoid smiling, talking to people and even looking in the mirror.” **(Whitley Co)**

## **DENTAL:**

"These benefits are crucial to Medicaid recipients. Dental care is promoted to people to have a cleaning every 6mths. Without proper coverage, this rule cannot be followed through with. Extractions, root canals, crowns, etc. are crucial because they affect people being able to eat properly. Removing unhealthy teeth can prevent infections, heart disease, poor nutrition, and other effects that having bad teeth play on a person's wellbeing. Dentures are not affordable to most people receiving Medicaid. Benefits to cover these much-needed things allow people to eat more healthy foods such as fruits, protein, etc. which helps them maintain a much healthier diet. Having dentures also plays a major role in the mental health of a person because the shame, low self-esteem, and embarrassment that many people feel that do not have any teeth greatly lowers a person's mental health." **(Henderson Co)**

"I would love for dentures to be included in services offered. Some people who cannot afford them cannot eat certain healthy foods (which they need)." **(Owsley Co)**

"Very important to have these services for my family and myself. Otherwise, I wouldn't be able to afford the cost to go to the dentist." **(Lincoln Co)**

"Mental health requires a healthy mouth. We know the physical health detriment of poor dental hygiene and dental health, but we also know that dental care is a \*mental\* health need. It's difficult to have good nutrition when you can't eat properly. Poor sleep because of pain can cause a number of mental health problems including activating bipolar disorder or even psychosis. There are just some aspects of mental wellness and mental health that are impacted by lack of access to dental care. The importance of jobs to mental wellness can't be overstated. The number of positions these days that require a good appearance are growing - someone with broken or busted or missing teeth isn't going to be first in line to serve food, for instance. They aren't likely to be first in line for medical positions either. Nor teaching or childcare. Then there's the aspect of appearance and others making fun of you, which also harms mental wellness and may contribute to development of other mental health conditions. I also want to bring up the very high number of opioid addicted adults in Kentucky who STARTED their addiction because they were given opioids for dental pain - by a well-meaning dentist, and ER doctor, or even a PCP who had very little other ways to help them. Long term dental pain contributed to our past opioid problems and regular dental visits shows it continues to be a factor in the prescriptions offered - appropriately because pain is awful. We can prevent the pain and treat the pain better, in a shorter window, because of these changes to Medicaid." **(Fayette Co)**

"Hopefully it would inspire more dental practitioners to take Medicaid - I've been without dental care for years, because of the difficulty in finding practitioners who accept my MCO (WellCare)." **(Jessamine Co)**

"Teeth are very important to ones' self-esteem so regular cleanings and the like are a must." **(Boyd Co)**

"Improved health." **(Rowan Co)**

"Many people are discriminated against if they have missing and decayed teeth. Often correctly or incorrectly, it is assumed it is the result of drug use. Sometimes, even though someone is in recovery this is the assumption. More often than not it is the result of years of neglect, poor diet and poverty. Poor individuals lack access to expensive restorative services and basic preventative care. They are caught in and endless cycle." **(Madison Co)**

## **DENTAL:**

"I think having access to these services is an amazing opportunity for Medicaid recipients to be able to get dental care more aligned with their personal dental needs. The benefits offered by the new regulation are more focused on better overall dental care that most adults need. Unfortunately, a lot of Kentucky residents require some form of cosmetic dentistry (for various reasons) and the new services offered help make that possible. I feel this could have wonderful effects on many aspects, such as unemployment rates, less welfare recipients, more Kentuckians in the workforce, and a healthier Kentucky, as well as other positive outcomes. I am one of those residents on Medicaid who require dentures due to lack of proper dental care enforcement from my caregivers as a child, resulting in my bad teeth today. I have been a CNA in Ky 19 years. My job involves a lot of smiling. Since my teeth turned for the worse this past year, I've lost many of them. I haven't been able to get over this traumatic change mentally, thus resulting in me not being able to work in almost a year now. I've been depressed, haven't been out in public much at all, purposefully lost contact with friends, family, and coworkers, gained weight, and the list goes on. Hearing about the new regulations, I finally gained hope of being able to get back to caring for my residents, not requiring the assistance of Medicaid anymore due to working and being able to afford healthcare on my own and living a normal life. However, since January, I haven't been able to find one provider that will provide me the services with Medicaid. I found one office that had been accepting Medicaid, but in March, they said they had to stop because they weren't getting payments for services that dated back to January. So, while it sounds promising, as a Medicaid recipient, I still can't get the services promised due to lack of participating providers." **(Bourbon Co)**

"Immensely, I've not scheduled a dentist appointment for years in fear/anxiety of not being able to cover the accumulating costs." **(Jefferson Co)**

"We need more funding and providers." **(Boyd Co)**

"Dentures would be very beneficial for members to have because they can have better dental health, more confidence and everyone deserves access to dental services." **(Warren Co)**

"First off, a filling or crowns are much more preferred as far as appearances for jobs and even interviews. Periodontics can help prevent future problems because often treatment of the jaws and gums can prevent the need for the other things. All I know about the need for root canals is they cause so much pain." **(Boyd Co)**

"It is so important that people have twice yearly dental checkups and any other dental care because there is a correlation between gum disease and heart disease." **(Campbell Co)**

"My husband has suffered from severe dental pain at various points over the last five years. I understand the toll that dental pain takes on a person--days of missed work, ER visits that do not address the cause of the pain (but provide opioids and antibiotics), mental distress due to constant pain. Our whole family was affected indirectly by my husband's chronic dental pain. Having access to appropriate dental care is absolutely necessary to health and contributes to overall quality of life. Additionally, restorations, implants, dentures, crowns, and fillings are important if we want to support our workforce. Many of the open positions in our state are public-facing roles, and it is hard to function in those roles without the ability to smile or talk properly due to the loss of teeth. We need workers who can function at the top of their abilities, and dental health is a part of that." **(Warren Co)**

## **DENTAL:**

“That's AMAZING!!! I would be absolutely THRILLED!!! I've lost most of my teeth due to an extreme, debilitating, anxiety not allowing me to hold my food down. I had PERFECT teeth! Braces for three years, a silent OCD issue with legitimately NOT being able to carry on a day without brushing my teeth or thinking about it literally, around every 5-10 min!!! Including my front tooth, which secretly, is breaking my heart to have because of the way people look at me, some of the mean things they say, and the fact that my children have to introduce me as their mother. I weigh less than 100lbs between not being able to hold down much food and not being able to chew properly. My gums are full of little tooth pieces throughout. It's so painful and "going out for dinner", eating together, etc., has been over for quite some time. Thanksgiving is very uncomfortable. Mealtime is miserable for me! For instance. As in; having to refuse my children's, or anyone else's, food offerings. The pain is unimaginable and my teeth crumble and cut my jaws and tongue and no dentist can touch them.” **(Pulaski Co)**

“I have seen first hand the impact of little or no proper dental care upon the women and children who have fled their abusive spouses and sought shelter at Safe Harbor. Dental emergencies prevent those women from working and cause their children to miss school. It costs Kentucky taxpayers very little to provide such basic dental care — often provided at little or no cost by dental students — and it is just basic health care.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“Dental health is very important to overall health. Many in our community go without dental care. Beginning great dental care in childhood is important too. I know people who have had to get loans for dental work, you should not have to go in debt for healthcare. People avoid dental care until it's very bad, then it causes other issues like not being able to eat or talk.” **(Fleming Co)**

“Constituents who have appropriate dental care are more poised to be effective in our workforce, both physically and aesthetically. Dental health is correlated with heart health. Healthy constituents can work and get promoted to better serve our communities with confidence.” **(McCracken Co)**

“Dental care is important for overall health. It also helps my daughter with clearer speech and allows her to work in the public with a pleasing smile that makes her more approachable.” **(Jessamine Co)**

“I think teeth is a human right you need them to speak and eat. So many in our community are not able to afford to fix out teeth or partials or implants. Everyone should be able to have teeth.” **(Floyd Co)**

“Oral health is essential to overall health, and it's ridiculous that oral health care coverage is distinct from other physical health care coverage. Moreover, all coverage should reflect best practices and the recommendations of experts, with consideration to data. Kentucky is ranked 49th in the US for oral health outcomes. Oral diseases such as tooth decay, cavities, and gum disease are common and can cause pain, tooth loss, and oral infection if left undiagnosed and untreated. Oral diseases are also associated with other poor health outcomes, including heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Cost of care is the most common reason reported for not having visited the dentist within the past year. Inadequate access to oral health services results in self-treatment of pain (including substance use) and the overuse of emergency departments as a primary source of care. Additionally, healthy teeth are critical to nutrition. Expansion of dental services can improve the health of Kentuckians, while preventive care can be a cost-savings to the Commonwealth.” **(Jefferson Co)**

### **DENTAL:**

“Because of this regulation, my partner is now able to receive 2 dental cleanings per year. Research shows that this is critical for maintaining overall health and detecting serious illness promptly. I also help individuals enroll in Medicaid as part of my job. My clients often need fillings, dentures, root canals, crowns, extractions, etc. In the past, when Medicaid was unavailable to them and in more recent years, when they could enroll in Medicaid, but it would not cover these services, these clients simply couldn't access routine dental care--that is why they have cavities and abscesses and even empty mouths where there could be full sets of healthy teeth. Providing these services now will help such people regain as well as begin to maintain overall health. And it has other economic consequences for them--often people have difficulty working if they are in constant dental pain, and there are social and mental health consequences if they are missing teeth. Everyone deserves dental care, and it's overall health benefits and the dignity that comes with it. I also serve on the board of a Federally Qualified Health Center with over 20,000 patients. Almost 60% of the health center's patients have Medicaid coverage. When Medicaid doesn't cover these crucial dental services, our clinics still provide the services with a nominal fee. We screen patients for income eligibility for our sliding fee scale and even to waive the fee in cases of extreme hardship, but it is better for both our budget and for our patients' budgets if these services are covered under their Medicaid. What does it mean for something to be good for a FQHC's budget? - It means we can provide more services for more patients in more locations, furthering the best health outcomes for our communities.” **(Fayette Co)**

“As a registered dental hygienist and public health professional, I understand the critical importance of routine dental exams and restorative treatment of oral health problems in the prevention of poor health, poor self-esteem, poor nutrition, and missed days from school/work. Limiting preventative and restorative benefits to one cleaning each year, extractions, and limited fillings creates a care model that completely misses the needs of most individuals. Over time, this model only serves to increase pain and suffering, tooth loss issues, and increases health costs from ED visits. The oral cavity is not a separate biological system, it is connected to the whole body and therefore affects every other body system. Oral health care should be addressed as a basic necessity for good health. Individuals who have more routine access to dental services have an opportunity to learn and develop preventative habits and have them reinforced at each visit which will eventually lead to decreased restorative costs and better health outcomes for them.” **(Nelson Co)**



### Vision:

*This regulation covers glasses and contacts for the first time. Previously, adults could receive a vision screening or exam. Please tell us how these additional services would affect you, your family, or your community.*

"Kentuckians need glasses and contacts in order to work, drive, and be productive." **(Jefferson Co)**

"People need glasses and contacts. I have glasses and contacts and I can't imagine how difficult working or taking care of my family would be if I couldn't afford to have the things I need to be able to see."  
**(Warren Co)**

"I wear glasses and quite frankly my work and productivity depend on it. I can't imagine how difficult it has been for some of our lowest wage workers having to find a way to bridge that gap themselves."  
**(Warren Co)**

"Let Kentuckians see! By covering glasses and contacts, we can support Kentuckians taking care of their vision so that they can lead healthier, more productive lives." **(Franklin Co)**

"Standard "treatment" should be provided for identified conditions found during screenings/examinations." **(Fayette Co)**

"Inadequate vision is a hindrance to being able to work or care for oneself or family. It isn't enough to diagnose impaired vision-it must be corrected whenever possible, to optimize function." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Wonderful, this will improve school and driving and participation in the community." **(Oldham Co)**

"It is crazy how many adults do without proper glasses that they need for everyday life. This is definitely a needed service for all people." **(Lawrence Co)**

"Vision care needs to include corrective lenses, period. People cannot afford glasses and try to still function without. You cannot drive safely, work effectively, enjoy life without good vision." **(Jefferson Co)**

"As the Community Health Worker I have had multiple calls from clients whom after having an eye exam cannot afford glasses. There are little resources in our community that assist clients with the purchase of glasses. I have clients that cannot see to drive due to not being able to get their glasses, which prevents individuals from meeting their basic needs. These services will help community members become self-sufficient." **(Graves Co)**

"If you can't see you are at a severe disadvantage in the world." **(Rockcastle Co)**

"Adequate sight should be a universal right." **(Perry Co)**

"These services are necessary for adults to be able to provide their own transportation, gain employment, maintain a safe and healthy lifestyle, and promote general wellbeing." **(Fayette Co)**

"What's the use in offering a vision screening without including corrective measures if needed?" **(Fayette Co)**

"This regulation is very personal to me as a glasses-wearer with progressive vision loss. I've worn glasses that were 3-years old with a bad prescription because I could not afford glasses." **(Jefferson Co)**

**Vision:**

"Would help me because I wear glasses." **(Fulton Co)**

"Helps cover glasses for my son." **(Jefferson Co)**

"We find over and over again at our clinics that people need glasses and just cannot afford them. Making it simple and easy for them to simply see better can improve so many other aspects of their life."  
**(Jefferson Co)**

"I haven't gotten a screening because I think I need glasses and can't afford them. I could fix the problem." **(Jefferson Co)**

"My patients aren't able to read because of lack of glasses. Some are never screened because they know they can't pay for glasses or contacts." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Glasses and contacts are a huge need! The Lions Eye program is one of the few options for glasses right now." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Vision changes, it would be good thing to have annual vision exams covered." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Awesome." **(Bullitt Co)**

"Vision is a crucial part of overall health. I have astigmatism and usually need a new prescription for glasses every year. Glasses and lenses are very expensive, and I am very thankful for what Medicaid has been able to provide." **(Campbell Co)**

"Vision services are a medical necessity and should be covered and expanded." **(Campbell Co)**

"Findings of treatable vision problems that can be corrected by glasses and contacts will immediately improve the quality of life and functioning of recipients. They will be more productive. In their families and communities. Many will be safer in movements and activities. They will be enabled to pursue goals including education and employment." **(Jefferson Co)**

"This does not impact me personally, but I support expanded coverage for the people who benefit from these programs." **(Jefferson Co)**

"This service would be great! So many people go without vision care because of the prohibitive cost."  
**(Jefferson Co)**

"My mother wears glasses, and before I had to save the money or borrow it in order for her to get them. Since we had to do that, she would use vision services/go to her eye doctor less often because she couldn't always afford a new pair of glasses when she needs them." **(Laurel Co)**

"AWESOME I am legally blind without my glasses." **(Boyle Co)**

"Lack of vision care leads to people not being able to see well, attend school to read, work in general. Vision/Reading/Learning." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Only way I can afford it!" **(Washington Co)**

"This could help lots of people." **(Harlan Co)**

**Vision:**

"I have an astigmatism. I require special glasses that have anti-glare lenses to help me see at night, especially in the rain. I cannot afford these special glasses. I'm wearing the same prescription that I bought 3 years ago with Covid Stimulus funds. I try to plan my driving around limited driving at night or rainy conditions...having help to afford my prescription Eyewear would be such a help." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Again, this is a common-sense measure that will make Kentuckians safer and better able to work and have good quality of life. As someone who is legally blind without corrected vision, I promise you, there are people who, without glasses or contact lenses, would not be able to work, drive, read, or adequately care for themselves. This is another preventative measure that all Kentuckians benefit from offering to Medicaid members. I don't want to be on the road with people who have poor vision. I don't want people to fall and injure themselves because they can't see. And I don't know how we expect people to work if they cannot see what they are doing and read documents that affect their lives." **(Warren Co)**

"The cost for vision paraphernalia has become exorbitant and out of reach for many." **(Kenton Co)**

"This is so important. Without glasses or contacts, how can people drive to work? Poor vision limits people in many ways." **(Garrard Co)**

"Vision screenings/exams without assistance for corrective lenses prevents many from receiving the glasses they need to read and work." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Being able to get contacts or glasses is also something insurance companies should cover. It is so important to be able to see every day. This does the same thing that not having proper dental care does." **(Rowan Co)**

"Vison care is a serious issue for people of all ages, affecting performance in school and the ability to function on the job." **(Hopkins Co)**

"We have patients that have gotten glasses for the first time in their lives, and they are overjoyed to be able to see well again! So so important for activities of daily living, like safe driving and job operations." **(Warren Co)**

"Being able to obtain glasses and contacts is crucial because a vision exam does no good if a person is unable to obtain the needed treatment. Left being untreated can also play an affect in a person's life because without glasses or comments a person may not be able to drive which impacts them being able to get back and forth to work, the grocery store, doctor's appts, etc." **(Henderson Co)**

"Very important to have these services for my family and myself. Otherwise, I wouldn't be able to afford the cost to go to the eye dr." **(Lincoln Co)**

"Not being able to read medication labels is deadly." **(Fayette Co)**

"Glasses are very expensive and not realistic for most members. Having access to glasses would not only improve vision health but also would increase confidence." **(Warren Co)**

"Screenings are vital to detect abnormalities and diagnose chronic disease such as diabetes, and taking the extra step to allow constituents to take action on these findings are imperative to the strength of our workforce and the overall health outcomes of our state." **(McCracken Co)**

### **Vision:**

"Not being able to read to children or grandchildren starts them off behind educationally. We want to raise healthy children and healthy children need healthy adults. It's hard to be healthy when you can't see clearly! It's also hard to drive safely - especially at night and after dark or even dusk - when you have vision problems. How many of our transportation problems can be addressed simply by allowing our lower-income adults to SEE well enough to drive someone back and forth from appointments at dusk?! How many Kentuckians have lost their jobs simply because they couldn't afford eyeglasses? They make mistakes at work and are let go all because they can't see what they are supposed to be doing, can't find typos, etc. The mental health aspect of vision is pretty clear - being able to clearly see your environment helps you feel steadier, safer, and be more confident. Safety is a big factor in this!" **(Fayette Co)**

"I think this service sounds amazing as well, with plenty of positive outcomes to benefit Kentucky. I am fortunate enough not to require these benefits, however, are the same barriers in the dental department holding individuals who do require these services from obtaining them?" **(Bourbon Co)**

"Sight is important for connecting with our surroundings and keeping us safe. Eyeglasses increase productivity, sustain income earning potential, enhance learning, and make people safer on the roads and in their homes. In fact, according to DOT Glasses, glasses can increase work productivity by 25% to 30% and even catalyze an income boost of 20% to 25%. They are the simplest and largest solution for vision impairment. However, glasses are an expensive out-of-pocket cost. In my research on access to care, I have found that people will skip a diagnostic screening or preventive care if they cannot afford the treatment recommendations that will follow. Vision care is critical to overall health, and it is important for people to have access to routine exams. However, if they cannot access prescribed lenses or visual aids, uncorrected blurry vision will continue to impact other aspects of their lives. Providing glasses as a Medicaid benefit is essential to quality of life and a healthy Kentucky." **(Jefferson Co)**

"My partner was able to get glasses under his Medicaid. Neither he no I can drive without glasses because of how near-sighted we are. His job requires a lot of driving, so it would be impossible for him to work without glasses. In my job over the years, I have helped many clients try to navigate ways to get eyeglasses when their Medicaid didn't cover this service, but it was never a straightforward, easy, or quick process. Medicaid should also cover these critical devices for people to live functional, independent lives." **(Fayette Co)**

"My MCO has always covered glasses, and currently offers one new pair per year." **(Jessamine Co)**

"Glasses should be covered along with non-scratch, non-glare and transitions lenses." **(Owsley Co)**

"If you can't see you can't learn or work." **(Madison Co)**

"One must always be able to see well." **(Boyd Co)**

"Common sense tells you that an eye exam isn't any good without the glasses. If your income is so low, you are eligible for Medicaid you can't afford glasses." **(Boyd Co)**

"We need more services." **(Boyd Co)**

"Extremely, My eyesight has shifted/ decreased and causing a strain on my eyes, and head but I cannot currently afford new lenses." **(Jefferson Co)**

### Vision:

"That would be absolutely incredible! I currently have an eye prescription of -7.00. Thus, not wearing contacts or glasses is not an option for me. I am currently wearing a pair (-5.75), that was Generously donated by an eye doctor, from the "discontinued lens bin", that understood the severity of my vision loss and insisted that I did absolutely have to have glasses to do even the most basic of human routines! My vision is so bad though that I cannot wear glasses too bad because they cut into my face and are easily broken that way but I have to because I cannot afford contacts and I am terrified that I will wake up and not be able to find my glasses and there could be someone in the room and I wouldn't be able to see them!." **(Pulaski Co)**

"My adult family member was able, for the first time in her adult life, was able to get a new pair of glasses in December under the previous regulations. The headaches that she had been suffering from disappeared because she no longer had to strain to read her computer screen at work. I require corrected vision to function in my daily life. I cannot imagine how difficult it would be to have to try to navigate getting glasses or contact lenses would be without vision coverage. Reading to my child, doing my work, making dinner, or even paying bills would be impossible for me without corrected vision. Being able to see should not be dependent on one's income." **(Warren Co)**

"This is just basic common sense. If a Kentuckian needs glasses or contacts as a result of the already-provided vision screening test, they should be provided." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Eye health is essential to being healthy. With the increase in tech and using computer screens all the time can affect eyes. It's important to catch eye diseases early. My son was hit in the eye with a rock, it broke his eye bone and pushed air into and behind his eye. That air could have made his eye rot without proper medical care. Many people can't afford prescription sunglasses, which helps with over all eye care. My husband has growths on his eye from sun exposure." **(Fleming Co)**

"Glasses/contacts are imperative for the safety of the individual and those around them. Why do an eye exam if glasses cannot be obtained." **(Campbell Co)**

"My daughter would not be able to work and contribute financially if she did not have glasses. She would be unable to read and navigate her life." **(Jessamine Co)**

"In just the first 5 months of the emergency program over 48,000 people have been able to get glasses. Vision makes it possible to manage prescriptions, read food labels for nutrition, fill out job applications, drive safely, and prevents accidents from falls, etc. This is really important to health, and again saves money in the long run by preventing far more expensive problems." **(Madison Co)**

"As someone who relies on glasses and contacts daily to live a safe and productive life, I can't imagine not having access to these aids to correct my vision issues. Offering someone a screening or exam but not offering coverage to correct vision problems, is missing the big picture. Not seeing well not only creates fall risks, potential driving accidents, and missed job opportunities, but also decreases a person's quality of life leading to poor mental health. The benefit of covering the cost for vision correction options far outweighs the high costs associated with poor vision." **(Nelson Co)**

### **Hearing:**

***This regulation covers screening tests and hearing aids for adults for the first time. Previously, adults could only get an evaluation and referral. Please tell us how these additional services would affect you, your family, or your community.***

“Hearing aids reduce the risk of dementia and make it easier for Kentuckians to work, take care of their families, and be productive.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“People cannot get the things they need if they cannot hear. They need to be able to have hearing aids.” **(Warren Co)**

“Hearing impairment is a major issue, especially as we age. Simply put, these services give people their lives back.” **(Warren Co)**

“Hearing devices are linked to a reduction in the risk of developing dementia. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” **(Franklin Co)**

“Standard “treatment” should be provided for identified conditions found during screenings/examinations.” **(Fayette Co)**

“It is not enough to diagnose impaired hearing; it needs to be treated for improved quality of life and function.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“This will allow more participation in the community.” **(Oldham Co)**

“Hearing is such a needed service to so many of my clients. Hearing should be included in health care regulations.” **(Lawrence Co)**

“Again, you need to provide a corrective fix for people with hearing issues.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“I provide hearing aids in my community and hearing testing. It is essential adult coverage of hearing and hearing aids, is as essential as any other health care, and this lack of coverage not only harms people's physical health and wellbeing, but it also has negative economic impacts as well. Let's make sure all Kentuckians have access to the care they need to live their fullest possible lives.” **(Christian Co)**

“Not being able to hear makes everything more difficult.” **(Rockcastle Co)**

“Most middle-class Americans cannot afford hearing aids. Getting an exam to tell you that you need something you cannot afford is worthless.” **(Perry Co)**

“Would be needed.” **(Henderson Co)**

“Hearing impairment is associated with a higher risk of dementia and puts adults at risk for injury and overall inability to connect with others. This is a basic human right and equitable access to hearing correction is necessary to provide individuals with a chance to live a healthy and happy life.” **(Fayette Co)**

“I have mixed hearing loss and I need hearing aids but don't have the money for them.” **(Fulton Co)**

“Screening and providing treatment to correct hearing issues is part of comprehensive health care.” **(Fayette Co)**

## Hearing:

"Awesome!" **(Garrard Co)**

"This would be very beneficial for me as I have hearing loss in both ears and need hearing aids specifically for me." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Having worked for 15 years in a federally qualified community health center in the safety net for folks who cannot otherwise afford care, the need for hearing aids has been one of our most challenging friction points. They simply remain unaffordable for most folks. Improving hearing would improve quality of life and can even lower the risk of dementia." **(Jefferson Co)**

"This doesn't impact me personally but it does plenty of other people. Vision and hearing are key to functioning." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Poor hearing causes depression and can lead to dementia. Many need hearing aids and cannot afford them." **(Jefferson Co)**

"This is major! Many clients discuss the need for hearing tests, but they typically don't look into it further due to challenges with access and coverage." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Good." **(Bullitt Co)**

"Kentuckians deserve to have expanded health services, including hearing aids. This will help improve their quality of life." **(Campbell Co)**

"Hearing services are a medical necessity and should be covered and expanded." **(Campbell Co)**

"Referrals are usually useless unless they include resources to pay for care and hearing aids." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Screening tests are the essential first step to enable clients to access care and needed devices to be more engaged in successful communications with others." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Those in my community who are hard of hearing deserve to have access to hearing aids." **(Jefferson Co)**

"This does not impact me personally, but I support expanded coverage for the people who benefit from these programs." **(Jefferson Co)**

"This would be an amazing asset to lower income community members!" **(Jefferson Co)**

"KY Medicaid is health insurance for people with low incomes, why can't people especially the elderly get help with hearing aids, etc.? Hearing aids are expensive. The ability to hear enables us to connect to the world for many very important, even vital, reasons-it also enables safety." **(Laurel Co)**

"My grandmother is hard of hearing. I have seen how much more difficult it becomes when people can't hear well. My grandmother could not hear the directions from her doctors about her medications or surgical procedures, which increased the caregiving that she had to receive. She was almost hit by a car because she couldn't hear it coming up behind her. Everyone should be able to hear." **(Warren Co)**

"Absolutely needed." **(Washington Co)**

### **Hearing:**

“Hearing is a very important part of living day to day and most people can’t afford them.” **(Harlan Co)**

“I haven't used this service.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“I have tinnitus that came post my Covid infection in Jan 2022 that I caught at the hospital during my mom's pancreatic cancer. Right now, my "hearing" is fine, but I may need hearing aids to help overcome the horrible ringing, high pitched squealing in my ears in the future. I will not be able to afford anything of the sort. Knowing that I cannot afford something that can bring quality back into my life is heartbreaking. It's sad that people must beg for help for our physical and mental health. I'm working as hard as I can, and that money goes to surviving...feeding my kids...My health is not within the budget.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“If we want adults to work, we must do what we can to ensure they have access to healthy options.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“This just makes good sense for improving quality of life.” **(Kenton Co)**

“Hearing loss affects every part of a person's life. Without hearing, people are isolated and excluded. Access to hearing aids allows people to continue to be active in public life.” **(Garrard Co)**

“Coverage for hearing aids will help older adults and adults with hearing loss remain independent and able to work safely.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“Being able to have hearing aids when you need them is important.” **(Rowan Co)**

“Hearing loss affects not only the individual who has it, but also those around them.” **(Hopkins Co)**

“When a person doesn't have access to hearing aids their quality of life greatly suffers. Their inability to communicate affects their physical and mental health; they feel like they are in isolation because they lack the interaction that we all need as human beings. Coverage of screenings and hearing aids is a wonderful benefit and necessary for everyday life for many Kentuckians.” **(Warren Co)**

“Hearing tests are not beneficial if a person has a hearing problem is unable to obtain a hearing device to help treat the problem.” **(Henderson Co)**

“I have needed this for a long time I even didn't get to hear neither of my grandfather's last words to me I couldn't understand what they were saying because I have a hard time hearing I read captions on the screen and have for years now.” **(Pulaski Co)**

“Hearing is an essential need in life for safety and daily interactions. My elderly father suffers from hearing loss and it is obvious that it affects his ability to be social, leading to loneliness. Knowing the science of the connection between hearing loss and dementia, how can prevention through coverage for screening and hearing aids not be secured permanently? Dementia is a growing epidemic in the U.S. and investing in prevention should be a top priority for quality of life and to save healthcare costs.” **(Nelson Co)**

“I think this service sounds amazing as well, with plenty of positive outcomes to benefit Kentucky. I am fortunate enough not to require these benefits, however, are the same barriers in the dental department holding individuals who do require these services from obtaining them?” **(Bourbon Co)**



### Hearing:

"Have you ever seen a 24-year-old country man cry because he could hear a community college professor? I have. After a friend of mine got a job with insurance and could get hearing aids, he attended our community college English class and started bawling (then got super embarrassed). He hadn't ever been able to hear our teacher, but thought he was just dumb, and no one could. Hearing that teacher helped him pass the class which led to his being able to keep going for his power lineman training, and he's now one of our saviors every single time there's a disaster that knocks out power. This is one example of how life changing a hearing test and hearing assistance can be. My friend could've told the school he had hearing issues that needed accommodations but the only accommodations that existed then were sign language interpreters and he didn't know it either. Hearing aids also allow people to hear loved ones - children, ailing relatives, etc. - better. They can keep closer watch on someone after surgery." **(Fayette Co)**

"I have had many clients call in need of hearing aids just to be able to continue to work. Hearing aids are outrageously expensive with little to no assistance to getting them in our community. These services would help our community members stay involved, continue to work, and overall help the public health of our community." **(Graves Co)**

"Hearing is important for communication and better relationships with friends and family, and less stress in social situations. conversely, hearing loss is linked to several health dangers, including higher rates of dementia, falling, and depression. Since loneliness and social isolation are noted as significant public health risks, all actions should be taken to address this crisis. Hearing steadily declines as we age. This is a natural process, and hearing aids are a non-invasive and cost-effective solution. Prior to expansion, Medicaid was designed to serve people with disabilities and older adults (populations with increased rates of hearing loss), so it doesn't make sense that screening and hearing aids have never been covered for these populations. In my research on access to care, I have found that people will skip a diagnostic screening or preventive care if they cannot afford the treatment recommendations that will follow. It is important for people to have access to routine exams. However, if they cannot access corrective measures, hearing loss will continue to impact other aspects of their lives. Providing glasses as a Medicaid benefit is essential to quality of life and a healthy Kentucky." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Loss of hearing is one of the most isolating and debilitating factors. There is a strong correlation between hearing loss and early onset dementia. Being unable to hear correctly has gotten people fired or kept them from meaningful work. Hearing assistance devices are critical parts of mental and physical health for the people and families I work with." **(Madison Co)**

"Very important to have this service, my husband is in need of hearing aids, and can't afford them." **(Lincoln Co)**

"If you can't hear you can't learn or work." **(Madison Co)**

"There is significant research to support that those with hearing loss are at greater risk of dementia, and that those with hearing aids have lower incidences of dementia. Providing hearing aids is a preventative step that can keep people in their homes and out of nursing facilities. It does not make sense that the legislature would choose to spend more money on nursing care than to take the preventative step to cover hearing aids." **(Warren Co)**

"Hearing is as important as vision and teeth." **(Boyd Co)**

### **Hearing:**

“As stated above without hearing aids what is the point of an evaluation? You already know if you are hard of hearing.” **(Boyd Co)**

“Improved health.” **(Rowan Co)**

“We need more funding.” **(Boyd Co)**

“With the recent national legislation mandating much lower prices for hearing aids, we can afford to provide this basic element of decent health care to Kentucky’s working poor.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“Screening tests are important especially to catch issues and often effects children’s learning. A college friend needed hearing aids and batteries but often could not afford them. His performance and learning suffered.” **(Fleming Co)**

“Without hearing aids quality of life is reduced and senility increases.” **(Campbell Co)**

“I have clients who need hearing aids because of illness, job-related injury, and aging. Like healthy teeth and eyesight, hearing facilitates taking care of their daily needs, working, and maintaining social relationships. Lack of hearing can lead to isolation and depression.” **(Fayette Co)**

“My daughter recently lost hearing in one ear. Currently she is still able to be covered by our family plan. In another year she would simply have to go without hearing in her left ear. This would affect her ability to work and to be a valuable member of her community.” **(Jessamine Co)**

“Hearing aids are expensive and with an aging population this is a necessity.” **(Floyd Co)**

“Hearing aides can be a life changing for so many members. Having the ability to hear is something people take for granted.” **(Warren Co)**

### **Improvements:**

***Is there anything that you think would make dental, vision and hearing services better for Kentuckians enrolled in Medicaid?***

“Every insurance should provide these things for people--including Medicaid.” **(Warren Co)**

“It’s important to continue to listen to Kentuckians with these issues and let them drive our policy improvements. These are just as important as any other aspect of our health.” **(Warren Co)**

“Comprehensive coverage at the same rate as we cover other physical and mental health issues and more providers to deliver these services.” **(Franklin Co)**

“This is great news for those in need.” **(Daviness Co)**

“Identify ways to increase the number of providers to serve ALL Kentuckians in need of these basic vital services.” **(Fayette Co)**

“Yes, coverage for both diagnosis and intervention.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“Free or subsidized transportation to the services would help many elderly.” **(Oldham Co)**

“Don’t stop at just Medicaid. Medicare patients are just as important, and they need this service as well.” **(Lawrence Co)**

“Overall better health for everyone involved.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“These additional services will put more Kentuckians back to work and improve their quality of life.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“It will make more people able to apply for jobs as they will have health and ability to perform jobs.” **(Christian Co)**

“These services are vital to every Kentuckian. I can’t believe they aren’t every person’s right to be covered in this way.” **(Rockcastle Co)**

“It should be as easy to access.” **(Perry Co)**

“To be able to have a provider in your area who accepts Medicaid and new patients. Currently there aren’t even enough to provide dental services to children and adults.” **(Henderson Co)**

“These are necessary to promote the health of all Kentuckians. We must prioritize the health of our communities.” **(Fayette Co)**

“More medical offices that accept the coverages.” **(Fulton Co)**

“Recipients should get a billing statement at the end of the year so they can realize how much money they are saving.” **(Garrard Co)**

“Adding these coverages would have a positive impact.” **(Jefferson Co)**

“Those services should be affordable and accessible.” **(Fayette Co)**

### **Improvements:**

"Kentucky's health statistics remain embarrassing - this preventative and comprehensive coverage, however, is something that could help move the needle!" **(Jefferson Co)**

"Paying for routine visits is key." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Better coverage. Better reimbursement to providers. Low reimbursement means fewer providers. We need providers participating all over the state. These services help Kentuckians achieve their life goals." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Establish a system that would offer emergency dental care." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Access to preventative care. Extractions, root canals and however many fillings they need." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Expanding all of these services can only do good for the people of Kentucky. I personally have benefitted from Medicaid, and I would not be as healthy without it. Dental health especially is related to many other health concerns and is particularly important to many people in Kentucky. I know that expanding access will benefit my community members exponentially. I also would like to see more providers accept Medicaid insurances. I know it has been a struggle for me to find a dentist and therefore I have gone without my annual cleaning, putting me at risk for cavities or other issues down the road. The people of Kentucky deserve to have expanded access to health services." **(Campbell Co)**

"Expanding them and providing more options for coverage." **(Campbell Co)**

"Ensure there are adequate, competent providers in all areas of the commonwealth and that payments for services are adequate and timely to assure their active participation." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Making the things in these regulations available is all my family could hope for at this time." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Universal healthcare for all Kentuckians." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Not that I can think of." **(Jefferson Co)**

"It's expensive to be poor. When you don't have money, you're often forced to make decisions that seem necessary in the short term; I don't understand why Medicaid can't cover these because these are medical needs. Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor, people with Medicaid are already - the ones on the program who are needy and won't typically go and get these services and will suffer because of it." **(Laurel Co)**

"More location that accepts it." **(Washington Co)**

"Yes, let more people have the things we need not want." **(Harlan Co)**

"Requiring all providers to take Medicaid would have a significant impact on my health." **(Jefferson Co)**

"The proposed expansion of services is important, as is ensuring that Medicaid providers are available in all communities. Ensuring appropriate language interpretation is provided, in accordance with federal regulations, is also important." **(Jefferson Co)**

### Improvements:

"I believe treating dental, vision, and hearing as much of a necessity for proper Healthcare as vaccinations, cancer screenings, and physicals would improve the all-around health for people. Especially when it comes to dental when proper dental care is proven to lower the risk of heart attacks and strokes. We need our politicians to stop playing games with our lives and do what they are elected to do...to fight and protect us...here lately it has felt like we need someone to protect us from our leaders and that's a sad place to be in as a State and as a Country." **(Jefferson Co)**

"I don't think there are any better services that could be offered to Medicaid members that would give a higher return on investment than these services could give. It literally helps people to be healthier and saves us money in the long term through preventative measures. These are services that allow people to work, and to advance in the jobs they have because they can perform at a higher level. They allow people to live productive, more fulfilling lives. Offering these benefits is the right thing to do, and it is what we should do." **(Warren Co)**

"Making all of these available." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Increased eligibility." **(Garrard Co)**

"If they were covered on insurance. No ifs and or buts. People should have access to these services and not live in fear or shame and possibly become worse off because of a lack of something that they need." **(Rowan Co)**

"We not only need a payment mechanism, but we also need more access. New options such as Public Health Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists would help expand access." **(Hopkins Co)**

"Please broadly advertise to Kentucky citizens that have Medicaid or would be eligible for these vital services. Many of them have given up hope." **(Warren Co)**

"Kentucky is in desperate need for more dentists that accept Medicaid. It should be mandatory that every dentist to accept at least a certain number of Medicaid patients in order to keep their license." **(Henderson Co)**

"I'd like to see providers who accept Medicaid parents receive a financial incentive for doing so, a flat fee or something of that ilk." **(Fayette Co)**

"Having providers who actually provide these services would be amazing! I love the idea of these new benefits and all that I feel it would offer the state of Kentucky in the end, but I have struggled almost 6 months to find a provider to provide these services. It's been a very deflating process to say the least." **(Bourbon Co)**

"More providers that accept Medicaid!!!! There are very few in our community that accept all or any forms of Medicaid, and with transportation being a barrier as well it makes it extremely hard for individuals to utilize their Medicaid benefits." **(Graves Co)**

"Improved access to care via these regulations." **(Jefferson Co)**

"There needs to be an adequate network of providers and distributed across the state. Dentists are particularly hard to find, but so are the others in certain areas." **(Madison Co)**

### **Improvements:**

"More practitioners accepting Medicaid!" **(Jessamine Co)**

"Increase the income limits." **(Owsley)**

"Possibly help with hearing aids would be the only thing I can think of." **(Pulaski Co)**

"Ease of access...low to no barrier and of course a robust provider network. There needs to be adequate outreach and education about availability and importance to overall health and ability to thrive. We must start EARLY and often instilling these benefits in our youngest children. We should hold Community Events/Clinics that promote toothbrush giveaways, old eyeglasses donations, hearing tests and transportation will be an important issue to address." **(Madison Co)**

"Having dentist in eastern Ky. that accepts Medicaid and not having to jump through hoops to find one. I had 3 abscessed teeth when I discovered I had lung cancer. So, I had to find a dentist. By the time I finally got help over a month later I had 10 and Medicaid didn't pay for any of it." **(Boyd Co)**

"More providers." **(Rowan Co)**

"It is a big problem that these services were offered, and then were taken away. My brother has a developmental disability and was excited to know that he could get new glasses with his Medicaid, only to be told that he actually couldn't, because the benefit was taken away. Explaining that the legislature changed the rules in the middle of the game is difficult for him to understand, and it doesn't build faith in Medicaid or in the legislature. We all know that access to providers is a problem. Greater access to providers (like licensing Dental Therapists) would be helpful, and providing covered services is a practical first step to getting more providers involved. The current proposed regulations are a good start to helping Kentuckians live better, more productive, more fulfilling lives." **(Warren Co)**

"More money and more providers." **(Boyd Co)**

"Expand the services provided to the basic levels that doctors routinely recommend for Kentuckians who have health insurance." **(Jefferson Co)**

"Everyone should have high quality medical care. My job is self pay, so they have block a desperately needed surgery. My doctor wrote a letter listing diseases that I would get without the surgery. I got 8 of them. With overall health coverage for all we could have a healthier workforce." **(Fleming Co)**

"We all do better when we all do better! The health and welfare of our state is vital to our success overall." **(McCracken Co)**

"Providing twice a year dental checkups and repairs, glasses, hearing aids." **(Campbell Co)**

"These are all critical components of wellness and routine healthcare that help people maintain health and independence. I see no reason that they should be separated out from Medicaid coverage. Everyone deserves equitable access to dental, vision, and hearing services." **(Fayette Co)**

"These services are not luxury services. They enable people to work and be productive." **(Jessamine Co)**

"More coverage of dental. I think it would be life changing for some ppl." **(Floyd Co)**

**Improvements:**

“If denture and glasses benefits were a permanent benefit.” **(Warren Co)**

“We need to educate Medicaid recipients about the importance of dental, vision, and hearing health in the overall health of their body, and help them understand what benefits they have access to for their care. We must also find more providers who will accept Medicaid recipients by giving them a fair reimbursement rate for their services.” **(Nelson Co)**

“More offices that accept this insurance.” **(Jefferson Co)**

