

*From an October 13, 2013 email from Myra Munson, regarding KCAW's interview with Gov. Sean Parnell, which also aired over KTOO Juneau:*

“If I heard correctly, after the Governor’s remarks, the reporter said that Alaskans with incomes below 100% of the Federal poverty level have Medicaid coverage even if Alaska does not expand Medicaid. That is incorrect, and reinforces the common misconception that Medicaid is a safety net for most poor Alaskans. Actually, unless a poor adult is disabled, Medicaid is available only to parents of minor children and only if the household income is less than 76% of the poverty level. Non-disabled adults with no children have no access to Medicaid. Adults with incomes less than 100% of poverty also cannot receive subsidies through the new federal insurance marketplace. In a terrible irony, the poorest Alaska adults will not be helped by the Affordable Care Act at all – unless the State chooses to participate in Medicaid expansion. If Medicaid expansion were accepted, 41,500 Alaskans would have new access to health care coverage.”

**Myra M. Munson**

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