

# Healthy Workforces, Sustainable Futures: Why Employers Should Invest in Early Kidney Care

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is placing a significant and largely underrecognized burden on American businesses and working families. As the primary sponsor of health insurance benefits in the U.S., employers are uniquely positioned to meaningfully change the trajectory of kidney disease through investments in early kidney care.

## KIDNEY DISEASE IS TAKING A TOLL ON AMERICAN BUSINESSES AND WORKING FAMILIES



**35.5M**

Americans are currently living with CKD



**9 in 10**

Americans with CKD are unaware they have it



**11M**

workers, 7.4% of the U.S. workforce, have CKD



Workers with later stages of CKD (stage 3-5) represent **1% of the U.S. workforce** but account for **8% of annual employer health care costs**.



This translates to **\$107 billion** in annual health care costs and **\$30 billion** in lost productivity for employers every year.

## EARLY KIDNEY CARE INVESTMENT CAN IMPROVE EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND GENERATE SAVINGS FOR EMPLOYERS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

With advancements in screening, diagnosis and treatment, employers can take proactive steps to prevent disease progression, reduce health care costs and promote workforce productivity and retention.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYERS IN EARLY KIDNEY CARE



**Prioritizing early screening and detection** for CKD



**Fostering timely collaboration and referrals** among health plans and health care teams to improve care coordination



**Providing affordable access to comprehensive treatments and services** at all stages of CKD, including FDA-approved therapies and nutritional services

### POTENTIAL SAVINGS FROM PREVENTION OF LATE-STAGE KIDNEY DISEASE

EMPLOYERS	MEDICARE
<b>\$35B</b> per year	<b>\$9B</b> per year



Congress can create more incentives for employers to prioritize upstream kidney care by establishing a voluntary legislative demonstration that allows private health plans to share in the savings they create for Medicare by preventing or delaying ESRD.

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To read the full report, visit  
[KidneyFund.org/policy-resources](https://KidneyFund.org/policy-resources)

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