

Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries, Inc. (ACAM)
Association for Family and Community Integrity, Inc.
Behavioral Health Alliance of Texas
Bering Omega Community Services
Care for Elders
Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
CHILDREN AT RISK
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris Co., Inc.
Coalition of Behavioral Health Services
Collaborative for Children
Communities In Schools
Community Family Centers
Community Health Choice, Inc.
Covenant House of Texas
DePelchin Children's Center
Depression & BiPolar Support Alliance Greater Houston (DBSA)
Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc.
Family Services of Greater Houston
Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse, Inc.
Good Neighbor Healthcare Center
Greater Houston Healthconnect
Harris County Healthcare Alliance
Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston
Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children
Houston Area Community Services
Houston Area Women's Center
Houston Food Bank
Houston Methodist Hospital
IntraCare Behavioral Health
Jewish Family Service
League of Women Voters Houston
Legacy Community Health, Services Inc.
Lesbian Health Initiative
March of Dimes
Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)
Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
Mental Health America of Greater Houston
NAMI Greater Houston
National Association of Social Workers-Houston
Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
New Hope Housing, Inc.
Northwest Assistance Ministries
Phoenix Houses of Texas, Inc.
Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast
Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
Santa Maria Hostel, Inc.
SEARCH Homeless Services
Spaulding for Children
Spring Branch Community Health Center
Springfield College School of Human Services
St. Joseph House
Texas Children's Hospital
Texas Health Institute
Texas Hunger Initiative
The Arc of Greater Houston
The Council on Alcohol & Drugs Houston
The Immunization Partnership
The Living Bank
The Network of Behavioral Health Providers
The Rose
The Walk for Mental Health Awareness-Houston
The Women's Home
United Way of Greater Houston
Vita-Living, Inc.
Wesley Community Center
Worklife Institute
YMCA of Greater Houston



Healthcare Healthcare Coverage Models

Position Statement Approved by One Voice Texas: December 10, 2014

Issue/Concern:

When the US Supreme Court rendered the Affordable Care Act (ACA) mandate to expand Medicaid eligibility to all persons at or below 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) optional, the state of Texas took the option and chose not to expand Medicaid eligibility. As a result, there are greater than one million Texans who remain uninsured and without options for health coverage.

In Texas, individuals at or below 138% FPL do not have an affordable healthcare coverage option. Healthcare for these uninsured individuals is currently funded through a myriad of fragmented methods, including, but not limited to: county property taxes and state supplemental funds for indigent care programs; local property taxes for hospital districts and mental health mental retardation authorities; funding through the Medicaid 1115 Quality Transformation Waiver hospital Uncompensated Care (UC) pool and Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program; state funds for limited health programs such as the Women's Health Program; hidden cost to people with commercial insurance to cover uncompensated care; charity care, philanthropic dollars, community benefit dollars, and in-kind/pro bono services by physicians.

A health plan that provides an affordable coverage option to low income, uninsured eligible Texans is needed. In addition to being affordable, this health coverage option should promote prevention and primary care, have a full complement of benefits, and should provide a payment structure that could support an adequate number of appropriate health providers that are reimbursed at current, comparable rates.

Specific Policy Recommendations:

Support models that will provide healthcare coverage to the over one million uninsured Texans who are not eligible for current healthcare options.

What Can Be Accomplished?

Over one million individuals would have a health coverage option and access to affordable healthcare if Texas provided coverage to these low income individuals. The reduction in uninsured would decrease the strain on counties and hospital districts that become the funder for the majority of indigent care. A coverage program would mean that previously uncompensated care would become paid claims. Emergency room crowding would be reduced when the uninsured could access a system of care that focuses on prevention and primary care, and no longer rely on emergency care. Insured individuals who have been subsidizing uncompensated care through cost shifting would see their own healthcare costs reduced. Employers, communities, and the state budget would benefit as healthy, productive employees would be able to participate in the workforce and contribute positively to the economy.

The reduction in the number of uninsured would lessen the strain on that counties and hospital districts that previously had been left with uncompensated care costs.

How Will This Impact State Funding?

A comprehensive coverage plan for this uninsured population would not only save local and state dollars, it would also bring matching federal dollars to Texas. Local entities such as hospitals, providers and counties that currently incur extensive costs related to uncompensated care would have fewer uninsured individuals to cover and could receive payment for care provided to this newly insured population. State dollars that were previously utilized for limited health programs for the uninsured would go back into the state's reserves to effectively address other state needs.

Supporting Facts/Research Resources:

- ✓ Garfield, R. et al. (2014). The Coverage Gap: Uninsured Poor Adults in States that Do Not Expand Medicaid- An Update. The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. November 2014 accessed December 2, 2014 at <http://files.kff.org/attachment/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicaid-issue-brief>.
- ✓ The Texas Way: A Program to Get Texas Covered and Healthy. 2014-2015. www.texasway.com
- ✓ Kaiser State Health Facts. <http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/adults-19-64/>

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