
Health Care For All New York

Coverage Issues in the 2021-22 NYS Budget

February 17, 2021



AGENDA

Welcome- Mark Hannay, Director, Metro New York Health Care for All

- **Medicaid** - Rebecca Novick, Director Health Law Unit, The Legal Aid Society
 - Global Cap
 - Safety Net Provider Cuts
- **Coverage through the ACA-** Heidi Siegfried, Director of Health Policy Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
 - Essential Plan
 - Consumer Assistance Programs
- **Immigrant Coverage-** Arline Cruz, Associate Director of Health Programs, Make the Road NY
- **NY Health Act** - Ursula Rozum, Co-Executive Director of the Campaign for New York Health
- **Federal Coverage Issues**
 - Anticipated issues from Congress/Biden Administration
 - American Rescue Plan
- **Action Steps**



Medicaid: Global Cap

Background:

- Established in 2011 to limit Medicaid cost growth; sets artificial spending limit on the program
- Does not account for enrollment growth, leading to cuts or policy changes that negatively impact consumers
- Executive Budget: extends the cap through the 2022-23 fiscal year

Advocacy:

- Ask your legislators to push for final budget language that repeals, not extends the cap
- Support Assemblymember Gottfried's bill: [A00226](#), which would repeal the cap
- Write a memo of support
- Spread the word: the Global Cap is not about responsible austerity; it's about budget tricks and cuts that hurt consumers



Medicaid: Safety Net Provider Cuts

Background:

- Because of the constraints of the global cap, the Executive Budget includes a 1% across-the-board hospital reimbursement cut
- Does not exclude safety net hospitals which have borne the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic and are essential to Medicaid patients
- The Executive Budget also excludes public hospitals from Indigent Care Pool (ICP) funding

Advocacy:

- Tell your legislators: the final budget must exclude safety net providers from the across-the-board cuts
- The final budget must eliminate the exclusion of public hospitals from ICP funding, restoring \$139 million in funding that is crucial for these hospitals and their communities

Coverage through the ACA: Essential Plan

Background:

Essential plan- levels 1 & 2 provide health insurance coverage to some low income new yorkers whose income is between 139-200% of the FPL.

- Executive Budget spends \$90 million to eliminate \$20 premium for 400,000 enrolled in the Essential Plan, which helps them financially
- It also spends \$420 million to provide higher reimbursements for providers PLUS \$200 million to insurers for quality bonuses
- BUT EP 1 and 2 enrollees still have to pay \$30 pm/pm premiums for vision dental

Solution:

- Reduce industry funds by \$180million to eliminate vision/dental premiums



Consumer Assistance and Outreach Programs

Background:

The Navigator program helps people apply for, enroll in, and renew health coverage

- New York's Navigator program provides free in-person services in all parts of the state through a network of community-based organizations
- The program has not had a cost-of-living increase since 2013, and nothing is proposed in the executive budget.

Advocacy & Solutions:

- Ask your legislators to support the Navigator Program and increase the budget from \$27.2 million to \$32 million to avoid service reductions at a time of greater need.
 - \$5 million in the budget for outreach to underserved communities would help people who are eligible but not enrolled gain coverage and could be especially helpful for people who are losing job-based coverage and have never bought individual coverage or enrolled in public coverage
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Community Health Advocates Program

Background:

- Since 2010, CHA has helped 359,000 New Yorkers all over New York State navigate their health insurance plans to get what they need and has saved New Yorkers over \$47 million.
- People with serious illnesses and disabilities especially need this assistance so that they can get the services and supports that are right for them.

Advocacy:

- Ask your legislators to support CHA and maintain program funding at \$3.9 million on the Executive Budget. HCFANY supports this funding level for this year!



Immigrant Coverage

Background:

Immigrants make up a disproportionate share of uninsured New Yorkers. Some undocumented immigrants in New York are eligible for Medicaid (pregnant individuals) or Child Health Plus (children under 19).

- 400,000 undocumented New Yorkers are uninsured because of their immigration status
- The federal government refuses to cover undocumented adults under any programs other than Emergency Medicaid
- Emergency Medicaid only covers testing/treatment for COVID for individuals under 138% FPL.
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients were specifically excluded from the ACA. In NY, they are eligible only for Medicaid coverage.

Immigrant Coverage, Coverage4All

Advocacy & Solutions: #Coverage4All

- Ask your legislators to cosponsor #Coverage4All bills A880/S1572 and allocate \$532 million to create a state-funded Essential Plan for New Yorkers who are currently excluded because of their immigration status.
- **URGENT:** Ask your legislators to cosponsor bills S2549/A1585, which would allocate \$13 million in the state budget to create a **temporary** state funded Essential plan for immigrant New Yorkers who have had COVID-19 and whose income is under 200% FPL.
 - Comprehensive coverage through the Essential Plan for a safe recovery
 - Eligibility expires 60 days after the end of the public health emergency
 - Mechanism: \$13 million in the budget and pass S2549/A1585
 - The state already pays half of that in uncompensated care for uninsured people, so the effective cost is less than \$7 million to provide thousands of New Yorkers with potentially life-saving coverage.
 - The state should include this as part of their Pandemic response to COVID (increased funding from FEMA and establishment of the Coronavirus Relief Fund under the Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which will provide the State with funding for COVID-related expenses.)



NY Health Act

Background:

- The Affordable Care Act helped narrow insurance gaps in New York but did not close them.
 - For example, White New Yorkers (4%) are still much less likely to be uninsured than black (7%), Hispanic (12%), Asian (8%), or American Indian (11%) New Yorkers.
- New York Health is legislation in New York State that would provide comprehensive, universal health coverage for every New York resident and worker, replacing existing private insurance company coverage.
- Healthcare covered by a public statewide fund, regardless of age, employment, or financial means.

Advocacy & Solution:

Ask your legislators to cosponsor bills [A5248A/S3577A](#). The New York Health Act would eliminate New York's coverage gaps and affordability burdens.



What's Anticipated on Health Care from Congress and Biden Administration

- Pandemic relief via “American Rescue Act” (ARP) – by mid-March
- Improving and expanding the Affordable Care Act – some within ARP
- Prescription drug pricing reforms
- Protecting and improving access to reproductive health care for women

Rolling back/rescinding Trump-era Executive Orders, regulations, and administrative actions re: Medicaid, ACA, and Medicaid

Health Care Aspects of American Rescue Plan

- Paid family and medical leave
- Hazard pay for essential workers
- New COVID-19 related OSHA protections
- Funding for testing, treatment, and vaccination programs
- Funding for state and local COVID-19-related public health programs
- Full federal match for Medicaid enrollees for vaccine programs (no state match required)
- Full COBRA subsidies for unemployed workers to keep employer coverage in place

Take Action!

Visit the [HCFANY](http://www.hcfany.org) website for more information and to learn more and view upcoming events.

Action Steps:

Tell your legislators to Support and Cosponsor!

Write a Memo of Support!

Get these bills on the ONE HOUSE BILLS!

#Coverage4All [link](#)

The NY Health Act [link](#)

Repeal the State Medicaid Cap [link](#)



Q & A

Thanks for attending

