
Health Care For All New York Coverage expansion workshop February 17, 2022



The Problem

- In New York State more than **154,000 New Yorkers are uninsured** because of their immigration status.
- Undocumented immigrants remain the **highest uninsured population in New York State** because of lack of access to health insurance.
- Uninsured New Yorkers are **forced** to avoid medical care for fear of costs.
 - Consequences from avoiding necessary care often include **prolonged illness, suffering and death.**
 - According to a research by Families USA more than 8,200 New Yorkers died from COVID-19 due to lack of health coverage in early 2020. It's estimated **at least 2,700 of them were undocumented.**
- Immigrant New Yorkers have been at the forefront of the state's fight against COVID-19, representing 54% of the state's essential workers.

Legislative Ask

We DEMAND that New York State step up and take the lead where federal policies fall short.

In order to provide coverage to the most vulnerable New Yorkers who are currently uninsured because of their immigration status, the state should:

- Create a *state-funded Essential Plan* for undocumented New Yorkers with income up to 200% of the FPL
- By allocating **\$345 million** in the New York State Executive Budget
- Bill numbers:
 - A880A in the Assembly
 - S1572A in the Senate



Medicaid expansion

- **Governor's proposal will expand Medicaid for the aged, blind, and disabled to 138% of the federal poverty level (\$17,388 single; \$23,520 for a couple)**
- Currently, the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) is for Medicare beneficiaries at or below 135% FPL
 - MSPs pay Medicare Part B premium (\$170.10 in 2022) and automatically enrolls people into federally funded prescription drug assistance (Extra Help)

MSP expansion proposal

- **MSP expansion to 156% FPL (\$20,093 single; \$27,176 couple) helps up to an additional 100,000 New Yorkers**
 - No cost to New York State because it leverages full federal MSP funds
 - Better aligns MSP with governor's Medicaid expansion proposal
 - Helps beneficiaries save on prescription drug costs

Action steps

- **Share upcoming sign-on letter**
 - Medicare Rights Center will be releasing an organizational sign-on letter
 - **Review current bills**
 - S8228:
<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s8228>
 - A9245:
<https://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?sh=printbill&bn=A9245&term=2021>
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Child Health Plus

The Problems:

1. New York families whose incomes fall between 160 and 222 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) must currently pay \$9 monthly Child Health Plus premiums. Premiums can cause coverage disruptions and churning and discourage enrollment.
 - In 2019, failure to pay this \$9 premium caused 69,000 New York children to have their coverage terminated for at least a month.
2. Certain Child Health Plus benefits do not align with those offered under Medicaid (i.e. mental health services, emergency transportation, medical supplies) creating disparities between benefits offered under Child Health Plus and Medicaid.

Child Health Plus

The Solutions:

1. New York must eliminate the Child Health Plus premium requirement for families who earn below 223 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).
[Included in Executive Budget]
2. New York must expand Child Health Plus benefits to align them with Medicaid benefits. *[Included in Executive Budget]*
 - Coverage of emergency ambulance transportation
 - Medical supplies
 - Medically necessary orthodontia services
 - Additional mental health services
 - Expanded services for undocumented children in foster care

Action Step: Include Child Health Plus expansions in your organization's legislative and budget advocacy!

Postpartum Medicaid

Problem: Gov budget extends PPM to 12 months but excludes some immigrants

Policy Solution: including everyone

Extend the Postpartum Medicaid for 12 months to everyone regardless of immigration status (S1411A/A0307A).

- Would cost an estimated \$30 million – less than one tenth of one percent of the State's Medicaid spending

Action Steps:

- **Add this to your policy agenda**
- **Ask your Legislators to push to correct this in the budget negotiation and cosponsor the standalone bill**

The New York Health Act

A.6058/S.5474



Universal

Everyone who lives or works in NY is included.



Comprehensive

Freedom to go to any doctor or hospital of your choice.
Covers more services than any public or private insurance plan.



Fiscally Responsible

Funded fairly based on ability to pay. Individuals, businesses, NYS save money.



Single-Payer

Streamlines the payment for healthcare to one entity: a publicly-funded NY Health Trust. NYS pays the bill. No more deductibles, copays or out-of-pocket costs.

Take Action

- Call, tweet, email lawmakers:
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- Follow on Twitter: @NYHCampaign
- Text “NYHEALTH” to 52886 to stay up to date on how we will #PassNYHealth!

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