

**Promoting Health Equity
Through Health Care Reform**

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What Next? Making it Work for New Jersey;
A Statewide Health Care Reform Implementation Conference
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About Community Catalyst



Community Catalyst is a national non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to achieving quality, affordable health care for all.

We work with national, state and local consumer organizations, policymakers and foundations to build consumer and community leadership to improve the health care system so it serves everyone, and to ensure consumers have a seat at the table as health care decisions are made.



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**National Health Care Reform
Is A Step Toward Equity**

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Presentation Overview

- **Big problem, partial solution**
 - Background on health disparities
 - Health reform in perspective
- **What's in the law, and what you can do**
 - Coverage and access
 - Quality of care
 - Healthy communities
- **Filling the gaps**



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Health Disparities in New Jersey



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Uninsured Rate

	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
NJ	17%	10%	22%	34%
US	17%	13%	21%	32%

Source: Kaiser State Health Facts, 2007-2008



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Infant Mortality

Rate per 1,000 live births

	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
NJ	5	4	12	5
US	7	6	14	6

Source: Kaiser State Health Facts, 2003-2005



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Heart Disease Death Rate

Per 100,000 people

	Total	White	Black
NJ	201	202	225
US	200	197	258

Source: Kaiser State Health Facts, 2006



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Poverty Rate

	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
NJ	14%	9%	26%	25%
US	18%	12%	33%	31%

Source: Kaiser State Health Facts, 2007-2008



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Education

Percent without a high school degree

	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
NJ	8%	4%	11%	23%
US	8%	5%	11%	20%

Source: BRFSS prevalence data tool, CDC, 2009



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Health Care Reform: A Partial Solution

- **Major advances in coverage and access**
 - Medicaid expansion
 - Subsidies for private insurance
 - Expansion of community health centers
 - Requirement that non-profit hospitals address community needs
- **Quality improvements**
 - National quality initiative
 - New data collection and monitoring
 - Promotion of cultural and linguistic competency
- **Healthy community initiatives**
 - Prevention initiatives
 - Community transformation grants
 - Expansion of school-based health centers



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Coverage and Access




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Coverage: Public and Private

New Jersey	Total uninsured in 2008	Uninsured who are people of color	Total (all races) newly eligible for coverage
New Jersey	1,257,600	817,000*	671,000

Source: Urban Institute; Kaiser State Health Facts, 2008
* Estimate




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Access to Care

Quick fixes:

- **More primary care providers**
 - MDs get better pay from Medicaid: 100% of Medicare rate, up from 41% in New Jersey

- **Expansion of community health centers**
 - \$11 billion increase nationwide over five years
 - In New Jersey 134 centers now - room to grow?



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Access to Care

Long-term fixes:

- **More doctors for underserved areas**
 - Expansion of National Health Service Corps
 - Grants to expand training programs

- **Diversify medical workforce**


- **Boost role of nurse practitioners**



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What You Can Do

- Focus on outreach and enrollment for Medicaid
- Press Congress to extend reimbursement increase for Medicaid primary care physicians
- Press Congress to appropriate funds for workforce diversity
- Help community health centers make the case for expansion
- Help immigrants and others still uninsured get care



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**What You Can Do
To Help Immigrants Get Care**

Launch campaign to leverage hospital community benefits

Background:

- New Jersey is cutting legal immigrant adults from Family Care
- Health care reform doesn't cover undocumented immigrants
- New Jersey free care program targeted for cuts
- Reform places new requirements on tax-exempt hospitals
 - Conduct community-needs assessment
 - Devise plan to meet those needs




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**What You Can Do
To Help Those Still Uninsured Get Care**

Launch campaign to leverage hospital community benefits

Strategies:

- Help the IRS set guidelines for needs assessment
 - Require involvement of uninsured
 - Define "needs" broadly
- Seek state law to define community benefits broadly
 - Free care and free medicines
 - Population health
 - Social determinants
- Organize community members to show local needs



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Quality of Care




Quality of Care

- **National quality strategy**
 - Includes reduction of health disparities
 - Sets benchmarks for improvement
- **Data collection to detect and monitor disparities**
 - Applies to federally funded health programs
 - Requires HHS to analyze and report data
- **Incentives in Exchange plans to reduce disparities**
 - Includes language services
 - Includes cultural competency training



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**What You Can Do
To Improve Quality of Care**

- **Weigh in on federal quality standards**
 - Work through national groups
 - Press for strong benchmarks on disparities reduction
- **Use new data to focus attention on disparities**
 - New Jersey also collects its own data
 - Track progress, identify intervention points
 - Press providers to improve care – both locally and statewide
- **Encourage health plans to start incentives sooner**



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Healthy Community Initiatives



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**Healthy Community Initiatives
Funded in Health Care Law**

- National prevention strategy
- Home visits for expectant and new mothers
- Expansion of school-based health centers
- Community transformation grants

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**Healthy Community Initiatives
Unfunded in Health Care Law**

- Promote healthy behavior using Community Health Workers
- Support primary care providers in setting up medical homes
- National oral health education campaign
- Community-based diabetes prevention

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What You Can Do To Support Healthy Community Initiatives

- **Press Congress to fund initiatives**
 - Work through national groups
 - Work with Congressional minority caucuses
- **Help develop national prevention strategy**
 - Work through national groups
 - Focus on ways to reduce disparities
- **Help New Jersey get grants**
- **Help develop community transformation plan**



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What You Can Do To Help Transform Communities

Launch campaign to secure community transformation grants

Background:

- Provides an opportunity for a comprehensive approach
- Addresses social determinants of health
- Grants designated for state or local agencies or non-profits



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What You Can Do To Help Transform Communities (continued)

Launch campaign to secure community transformation grants

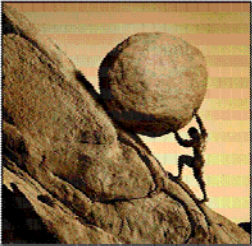
Strategies:

- Help identify communities and their needs
- Join with or encourage agencies to apply
- Ensure Prevention Fund money goes to these grants



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Filling the Gaps



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Filling the Gaps


- End the five-year wait for Medicaid for immigrants
- Secure Medicaid match for language services
- Increase access to healthy foods
- Expand transportation to health facilities

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Questions?



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