

HRSA STATE PLANNING GRANT
MICHIGAN INTERIM REPORT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

Executive Summary

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) received a HRSA State Planning Grant for the award period of September 1, 2004 thru August 31, 2005. In June 2005, the MDCH requested a 12-month no-cost extension for this award, and received preliminary indication that this extension request would be granted. Michigan's State Planning Grant activities are currently in progress, and therefore this report shall serve as an interim report. Quantitative and qualitative research is being conducted, along with consensus building and planning activities. Much of the information requested is not yet available, but will be included in the final report submitted in 2006.

The Michigan State Planning Project for the Uninsured will result in a plan that puts forth a set of realistic strategies and viable options to provide access to comprehensive, affordable health insurance coverage for all Michigan citizens. The project's specific goals include:

1. Expanding the current knowledge base regarding uninsurance issues by engaging in specific data collection activities designed to uncover unmet need, barriers to insurance coverage and system changes that may need to occur in order to extend coverage to all Michigan citizens. Data collection efforts include:
 - A **household survey** of over 13,000 Michigan households representing more than 34,000 individuals.
 - A mail **survey to 12,000 Michigan employers.**
 - **Focus groups** with employers and insurance brokers to better understand the existing barriers that keep coverage from being extended to all Michigan citizens.
 - **Key informant interviews** with policy makers to elucidate attitudes toward universal coverage, as well as to the strategies and models being proposed by the project.
 - **Town hall meetings** throughout the state to frame the issue and to encourage dialogue among providers, policy makers, purchasers and the community at-large.
2. Using a consensus approach among key stakeholders and reflecting the quantitative and qualitative data collected, develop a set of options from which recommendations and a plan to extend access to health insurance coverage to all Michigan citizens will be produced, accompanied by a set of strategies to facilitate the adoption of the plan by key policy makers and the citizens of Michigan. The plan will:
 - Offer a series of models that reflect the diversity of Michigan's population.
 - Include recommendations to Federal and State policy makers.
 - Be comprehensive, but flexible, and allow for staging of insurance extension by specific target populations.
 - Examine the gaps in Michigan's current mix of health insurance coverage for children and their families, with special focus on mechanisms to close those gaps.
 - Assess existing state options, integrate these options and expand upon them when feasible and economical.

The governance structure for the Michigan State Planning Project for the Uninsured includes an Advisory Council and three workgroups.

- The **Advisory Council** includes representatives from business, health care providers, insurers, labor unions, regulators, and consumers.
- The **three workgroups** (Data Synthesis, Models Development, and Community Interface) assist project staff in: designing data acquisition approaches and reviewing information acquired; reviewing and assessing models; reviewing and assessing plan components as they are developed; and developing strategies to engage community stakeholders and build consensus.

Section 1. Uninsured Individuals and Families

Michigan is completing a Household Survey of over 13,000 households representing more than 34,000 individuals around the state. Calls were targeted to seven regions of the state to insure regional variations were accounted for. The data from the survey is currently being cleaned and analyzed. Preliminary data will be available at the end of September and a draft report at the end of October. The final report will be issued by November 30, 2005.

Additionally we are planning ten Town Hall meetings around the state to put a face to the issue and to explain in real terms the impact that lack of insurance has on individuals as well as communities.

Quantitative data about levels of uninsurance and characteristics of the uninsured will be available from the Household Survey, while qualitative data about what constitutes affordable and adequate coverage, how much the uninsured are willing to pay, why the uninsured who are eligible for public programs are disengaged from them, what types of incentives would encourage individuals to become insured, what barriers to insurance are present, and where the uninsured get their medical care will be assembled from all data collection instruments.

The findings from this survey and the town hall meetings will be reviewed and analyzed by the Data Synthesis Workgroup and forwarded to the Models Development Workgroup which will use the data to determine which health insurance options are most viable in meeting the needs of the uninsured in Michigan.

Section 2. Employer-based Coverage

An Employer Survey has been sent to 12,000 randomly selected businesses throughout the State of Michigan and phone calls are currently being made to those who failed to respond. Data collection will end October 31, whereupon analysis will begin in preparation for a Preliminary Data Analysis release to workgroups in mid-November and a draft report at the end of the year. A final report will be completed by February 1, 2006.

Additionally, eight focus groups will be conducted with employers beginning in late October and continuing through November. These will be scheduled to gather in-depth data from small and mid-sized business owners. The information gleaned from these focus groups will enhance our understanding of any barriers to providing employer-sponsored health insurance and provide

detail on state-level policy changes that could encourage businesses to provide health insurance to their employees.

Between the Employer Survey and the Employer Focus Groups we will have qualitative and quantitative data profiling firms that do and do not offer coverage as well as information about incentives that may encourage those not offering coverage to do so.

As with the Household Survey, the findings from the Employer Survey and Focus Groups will be analyzed and reviewed by the Data Synthesis Workgroup and forwarded to the Models Development Workgroup which will use the data to determine which health insurance options would most effectively meet the needs of the uninsured in Michigan.

Section 3. Health Care Marketplace

Health Management Associates is currently conducting a Landscape Analysis to compile baseline data on the health insurance environment in Michigan. This work will include a description of the structure of health insurance products and coverages, including state and federally funded programs, county health plans, third share plans, and a discussion of insurance regulations.

The Preliminary Landscape analysis will be completed by October 31, 2005. Additional information from the Household and Employer Surveys will be added to the Landscape Analysis upon their completion.

Section 4. Options and Progress in Expanding Coverage

The Michigan project is currently assessing a comprehensive list of optional structures and tools that may, in the end, constitute the framework for achieving our goal of making health insurance available to our citizens. The Models Development Workgroup is working with a list of 18 options that have been collapsed into six general categories including:

Six task groups within the Models Development Workgroup are currently researching all of the options within each general category to determine whether the options are viable in Michigan. Information from each of the task groups will come to the full Models Development Workgroup where they will be evaluated, with recommendations regarding which insurance expansions are most realistic, viable, effective and efficient in Michigan going to the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council will assess these recommendations and make their recommendations to the Director of the Department of Community Health.

Section 5. Consensus Building Strategies

The Michigan project has been designed to include extensive consensus building strategies such as:

- The make up of the Advisory Council, which has representatives from all the major interest groups in the state. A list of the Advisory Council and their affiliations is attached.

- Open participation on workgroups that allows everyone to work on any or all of the workgroups. Currently there are more than 160 workgroup members, who represent a broad range of interest groups involved in the three workgroups.
- A Town Hall meeting in each region of the state with extensive invitational activities so consumers, providers, insurers, business owners, legislators, local officials, representatives of interest groups and others feel welcome and provide input from their unique perspectives.
- A website that allows workgroup and Advisory Council members to access documents and minutes, check meeting schedules, and get timely updates. Public access to this website allows citizens to follow the progress of the uninsured project, review findings, pose questions and provide feedback as it relates to the work being done. The website address is: www.michigan.gov/spg
- Key Informant Interviews to reach policymakers, key legislators, and major employers that did not participate in the employers survey or focus groups. These will assess the attitudes of key stakeholders regarding possible components of a state plan to expand health insurance coverage
 - Provide insight into potential paths for policy creation.
 - Provide information to help develop policy paths that will make it possible to maximize large employers' participation in the state plan.

Section 6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations to States

None yet.

Section 7. Recommendations to the Federal Government

None yet.

Attachments

Advisory Council Roster

Options to Expand Health Insurance Coverage to Michigan's Uninsured

Household Survey Questionnaire

Employer Health Insurance Survey

Questions for employer and agent focus groups

Schedule and Questions for Town Hall meetings