



STATE OF THE STATES

February 2011

Letter from the Director



We are delighted to share this year's State of the States report, titled "Laying the Foundation for Health Reform." Following in the tradition of the State Coverage Initiatives (SCI)

program, this year's report looks back at 2010, an extraordinary yet challenging year. With the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), the United States embarked on a historic course toward expanding coverage for the uninsured. The ACA has set an ambitious yet complex path for states to assume a major role in implementing many of the reforms envisioned in the new law. And, of course, all of this takes place in an extraordinarily difficult fiscal environment.

With the enactment of the ACA, states face an aggressive implementation timetable. There is no time to waste; for many, January 1, 2014 seems too near to accomplish so much. *State of the States* examines efforts to meet the requirements and responsibilities outlined by the ACA in order to build a new system maximizing residents' coverage and access to care, improving how private insurance markets function, holding insurers accountable, and reforming the health care delivery system.

As new administrations take the helm in 26 states, so begins a new era of health reform implementation. The learning curve will be steep but the opportunities are enormous.

The SCI program remains a supportive partner to states as they continue their implementation work. The majority of our technical assistance has been focused on the implementation of insurance exchanges and other insurance market reforms as defined in the ACA and we have a wealth of resources on our website www.statecoverage.org. We look forward to continuing to contribute to the research and experience-based knowledge states need as they lay the foundation for meaningful health reform.

Sincerely,

Enrique Martinez-Vidal