

# The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act



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# Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on March 23, 2010
- Healthcare and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act was signed on March 30, 2010
- Interpretation of the legislation requires examining both sources (together, the “Affordable Care Act”)
- January 1, 2014, almost everyone in America can have health care coverage



# The Historic Health Care Delivery Problem

- 50 million people uninsured
- Costs rising
- Fragmented coverage and care
- Insurance company practices
  - don't cover "pre-existing conditions"
  - lifetime and annual limits
  - drop people when they get sick



# Provisions of Health Reform that are Already in Place

1. Small Business Tax Credits
2. No Discrimination Against Children with Pre-Existing Conditions
3. Help for Uninsured Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions until Exchange is Available
4. Ends Rescissions
5. Begins to Close the Medicare Part D. Donut Hole
6. Free Preventive Care under Medicare



# Provisions of Health Reform that are Already in Place cont...

7. Extends Coverage for Young People up to 26th Birthday through Parents' Insurance
8. Help for Early Retirees
9. Bans Lifetime Limits on Coverage
10. Bans Restrictive Annual Limits on Coverage
11. Free Preventive Care under New Private Plans
12. New, Independent Appeals Process



# Provisions of Health Reform that are Already in Place cont...

13. Ensures Value for Premium Payments
14. Community Health Centers
15. Increases the Number of Primary Care Practitioners
16. Prohibits Discrimination Based on Salary
17. Holds Insurance Companies Accountable for Unreasonable Rate Hikes



# California's Bridge to Health Reform: The Section 1115 Waiver

The Obama Administration approved a 1115 Medicaid Waiver on 11/2/10 that provides CA with extra Federal funding for 5 years to prepare for Health Reform.

Main components:

- Seniors and Persons with Disabilities
- Low Income Health Program
- High Risk Pool Insurance Financing



# Waiver Background

## What is a Waiver?

- A way to change a State's Medicaid program
  - Small portion or entire program
  - Authorized by Section 1115 of the Social Security Act
- Agreement between the Federal government (CMS) and the State (in CA, DHCS)
- Certain things CANNOT be waived
  - FMAP, funding for nonqualified immigrants
- 1115 Waivers must be budget neutral





# Details of Bridge to Health Reform

The agreement:

- Extends the current County-based Health Care Coverage Initiatives;
- Transitions seniors and persons with disabilities into managed care plans;
- Increases support for public hospitals through the Safety Net Care Pool; and
- \$500 million in Federal support for State health care and workforce development programs.



# Details of Bridge to Health Reform cont...

## Expands the Coverage Initiatives and Medi-Cal

- Allows new Counties to participate in the Healthcare Coverage Initiative that serves low-income adults currently ineligible for Medi-Cal.
- Covers people up to 133% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) between the ages 19 to 64.
- CRIHB Research projects 21,382 Low Income Health Program eligible AIANs (below 133% FPL) within the CHSDA based on the American Community Survey.
- CRIHB is researching the possibility of establishing a Low Income Health Program to cover even more AIANs.



# Details of Bridge to Health Reform cont...

## Health Care Coverage Initiative in Rural CA

- CMSP's Path2Health:
  - Is a Low Income Health Program sponsored by the County Medical Services Program and authorized under the Waiver.
  - On a 2-year pilot project basis, Path2Health will expand no-cost insurance coverage in 34 rural counties to uninsured.



# Details of Bridge to Health Reform cont...

## Path2Health Covers:

- Inpatient and outpatient hospital services
- Physician services
- Outpatient clinic services
- Prescription drug services
- Physical therapy services
- Dental services
- Optometry services
- Emergency ambulance services
- Laboratory and radiology services
- Mental health and substance abuse counseling services
- Emergency hospital services in all States/U.S. territories
- Other services



# And More... Details of Bridge to Health Reform

- Expands the Safety Net Care Pool
  - Provides more resources to support hospitals uncompensated care costs.
- Transitions High-Risk Populations into Managed Care
  - Up to 400,000 seniors and persons with disabilities will enroll in managed care plans.
- Creates the Delivery System Reform Incentive Pool
  - Implements investments in the public hospital delivery system.



# ACA work of AIAN Health Boards

Tribal Educational and Outreach Consortium (TEOC) includes:

- Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- Oklahoma City Area Inter Tribal Health Board
- United South and Eastern Tribes
- California Rural Indian Health Board

TEOC develops Tribal-specific materials about Health Insurance Exchanges and Medicaid Expansion that can be adapted to Areas and Tribes.



# ACA work of AIAN Health Boards cont...

The Tribal Educational and Outreach Consortium has conducted information gathering sessions at:

- The Tribal Self-governance Advisory Committee meeting in Palm Springs, 5/4/11;
  - The Direct Service Tribes Meeting in Nashville, 8/17/11;
  - A Tribal community in the USET area, 10/26; and
  - A meeting with Tribal Leaders in California, 1/26.
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- Additional meetings will be held in March. Materials are expected to be completed and available to Tribes by June 2012.



# Speakers Bureau Service

If you would like us to present on the Affordable Care Act in your Tribal community, please email us at:

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