



# Healthy PA

**ACCESS • AFFORDABILITY • QUALITY**

**TOM CORBETT, GOVERNOR**

*Healthy Pennsylvania* is Governor Tom Corbett's plan to ensure that Pennsylvanians have increased access to quality, affordable health care. Pennsylvania is home to a world class health care delivery system, and the initiatives in *Healthy Pennsylvania* focus on three key priorities: Improving Access; Ensuring Quality; Providing Affordability.

## **IMPROVING ACCESS**

- **Get All Kids Insured.** No child in Pennsylvania should be without health care. *Healthy Pennsylvania* works to ensure that all Pennsylvania children have access to quality, affordable health care coverage that best meets their needs. Currently, nearly 95 percent of Pennsylvania children are enrolled in health care coverage – one of the highest percentages in the nation. This year, Governor Corbett added additional funding to increase health care coverage to previously uninsured and under-insured Pennsylvania children. Governor Corbett intends to continue that trend by expanding health care coverage options for children.
  - ✓ Governor Corbett will seek to eliminate the mandatory Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) six month waiting period, allowing all Pennsylvania children to have continued and timely access to CHIP coverage, as well as reauthorizing CHIP by December 31, 2013.
- **Promote Access to Primary Health Care.** Governor Corbett believes that every Pennsylvanian should have access to a family doctor and health care provider in order to increase use of preventive and primary care services in the Commonwealth.
  - ✓ This year, Governor Corbett provided \$4 million to build new and expanded community-based, primary care health clinics throughout Pennsylvania. To continue this effort, Pennsylvania will submit an innovative proposal to the federal government to access funding for additional community-based, primary health care clinics across the state.
  - ✓ Governor Corbett wants to increase access to primary health care services in Pennsylvania's rural and underserved areas of the state. As part of *Healthy Pennsylvania*, the Governor will continue to support loan forgiveness programs to incentivize primary health care providers to practice in those areas of the Commonwealth.

- **Enhancing Care Delivery through Technology.** *Healthy Pennsylvania* will continue to promote greater use of health information technology, including telemedicine and electronic health records, to bring high quality health care to all Pennsylvanians.
  - ✓ Telemedicine brings specialty care – such as tele-stroke and tele-burn services – to areas of the state lacking specialized medical care. This spring, Governor Corbett launched an effort to expand the use of telemedicine across the Commonwealth to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access these critical services.
  - ✓ Having electronic access to secure patient health records not only saves time and costs for providers, but more importantly, it can save lives. As part of *Healthy Pennsylvania*, the Commonwealth will continue its commitment to the eHealth Partnership Authority, which is facilitating the statewide electronic sharing of health records among health care providers and ensuring patient confidentiality of records.

### **ENSURING QUALITY**

- **Supporting Older Pennsylvanians & Persons with Disabilities.** A core component of *Healthy Pennsylvania* is developing a more effective and coordinated long term care and support system to ensure quality health care for older Pennsylvanians and persons with disabilities. The Commonwealth has one of the largest and fastest-growing elderly populations in the country.
  - ✓ This year, Governor Corbett invested an additional \$68 million to help older Pennsylvanians and persons with disabilities come off of waiting lists and stay in their homes and communities. *Healthy Pennsylvania* will build upon that investment by continuing efforts to redesign services so that additional individuals may have access to home and community based care.
  - ✓ Governor Corbett will convene a Long-Term Care Commission to recommend to the Governor and the General Assembly best practice strategies to improve the coordination of care for all people in need of long term care services and support. They will focus on creating a person-centered approach for increasing quality outcomes and supporting independence, regardless of an individual's disability or age.

- **Promote Good Public Health.** From managing illness to promoting programs to keep kids and adults healthy in schools and communities, *Healthy Pennsylvania* supports public health efforts that improve the health of all Pennsylvanians.

- ✓ This year, Governor Corbett asked Pennsylvania’s leading public health and research universities, employers, communities and physicians to examine how healthy diets, increased physical activity, delivery of care and management of chronic conditions can improve the overall health and wellness of Pennsylvanians. As part of this ongoing commitment, Governor Corbett will host a “Healthy Pennsylvania Summit” this spring to expand preventative health best practices across the Commonwealth.



- ✓ Pennsylvania will continue to support and expand community-based health partnerships, like the Family Place libraries, which is an initiative that expands the role of public libraries to bring together families with local agencies and health care professionals to improve health literacy.

- **Ensuring Safe & Appropriate Access to Prescription Medication.** *Healthy Pennsylvania* will work with families, providers and communities to alleviate growing health, financial and public safety concerns around the inappropriate use of prescription drugs.

- ✓ Governor Corbett will enhance the prescription drug monitoring program to enable health care professionals to improve better coordination of quality pain care for patients; help patients receive addiction treatment; and reduce the criminal diversion of prescription drugs.
- ✓ Pennsylvania will continue its partnership with local law enforcement to support the statewide “Drug Take-Back” program that gives Pennsylvanians a safe and secure way to dispose of unused prescription medications.

## **PROVIDING AFFORDABILITY**

- **Continue to Reform PA’s Medical Liability System.** Pennsylvania’s medical liability environment continues to be a financial burden on the state’s overall health care system. Defensive medicine and malpractice costs add to rising health care costs, but generate little in terms of improved outcomes or better health care.
  - ✓ *Healthy Pennsylvania* builds upon recent improvements in our tort system by encouraging the adoption of the “Apology Rule” for health care providers to allow them to express empathy for unforeseen outcomes without fear that their statements will be seen as an admission of error.
- **Reforming Pennsylvania’s Medicaid Program.** Pennsylvania’s Medicaid program is intended to serve as a health care safety net for our most vulnerable citizens, but each year it places an increasingly high burden on Pennsylvania taxpayers with hundreds of millions of dollars in new annual costs just to maintain the existing program. Currently, one in six Pennsylvanians – over two million people – are on Medicaid, and the costs now account for 27 percent of the entire general fund budget for the Commonwealth. In total, Pennsylvania taxpayers and the federal government spend approximately \$19 billion annually on Medicaid.

Governor Corbett’s *Healthy Pennsylvania* plan includes a common sense approach to reforming Pennsylvania’s Medicaid program in order to provide affordable, quality health care in a fiscally sustainable manner. Governor Corbett does not accept a Washington “one size fits all” approach for the Commonwealth that would require Pennsylvania to go from one in 6 Pennsylvanians on Medicaid to one in four. *Healthy Pennsylvania* is a state-based solution that provides critical care for Pennsylvanians who need it the most without growing an entitlement program at the peril of Pennsylvania taxpayers. It is grounded in independence for all Pennsylvanians, reducing government bureaucracy, growing the private health care market and creating real health care choices for consumers. This proposal continues to provide critical care to Pennsylvania’s children, older adults and persons with disabilities – but it also provides a pathway to quality health care for able-bodied Pennsylvanians that promotes shared responsibility and a pathway to greater independence.

To achieve these goals and rebuild Pennsylvania's Medicaid program to make it sustainable now and into the future, Governor Corbett is asking the Obama Administration for approval to implement the following reforms to the current Medicaid program:

- ✓ **Align Medicaid Benefits with Private, Commercial Insurance:** Currently, Pennsylvania's Medicaid program offers 14 separate and complex benefit packages that far exceed national standards for coverage and are cost prohibitive for taxpayers. The Commonwealth is seeking permission from the federal government to align Medicaid benefits with the national standards around essential health benefits, mental health parity and preventive care. This alignment will produce efficiencies and savings that can be reinvested in the system. These benefit packages will be similar to those provided in the commercial market to working Pennsylvanians through their employers. The benefit package for children will not change and community supports for older Pennsylvanians and persons with disabilities will remain the same.
- ✓ **Cost Sharing & Individual Responsibility:** Encouraging personal responsibility and cost sharing is critical to reforming and sustaining Pennsylvania's Medicaid program. The Commonwealth is asking the federal government for the ability to implement a revised cost-sharing model for traditional adult Medicaid recipients by instituting a reasonable monthly premium and removing confusing co-payments. This cost-sharing model will reduce unnecessary and inappropriate emergency room usage. People using the system will have greater accountability and ownership over healthy pro-active behavior.
- ✓ **Job Training & Work Search:** Individuals who are gainfully employed are healthier. To encourage positive healthy outcomes and help individuals achieve independence, the Commonwealth will ask the federal government to allow for the plan to require work search and linkages to job training for all unemployed working-age Medicaid



beneficiaries, with limited exceptions. Insurance premiums will be reduced when an individual participates in wellness activities and actively engages in work search and job training programs. As part of this effort, the Departments of Public Welfare (DPW) and Labor and Industry (L&I) will work together to provide important connections to work search and job training. One key element of this approach is Pennsylvania's JobGateway<sup>SM</sup> program. JobGateway<sup>SM</sup> is free to both job seekers and employers and offers a number of unique features such as: automatic job openings based on individual preferences; a dashboard allowing for easy tracking and managing of job applications; and PA Career Coaches, which is a career exploration tool with valuable employment data like estimated earnings and local educational programs to help prepare for a specific occupation.

If the federal government grants Pennsylvania the ability to implement these reforms, the Commonwealth will be a national leader in reforming a Medicaid program that truly works for our citizens. Pennsylvania will realize significant cost savings for taxpayers that can be reinvested while providing an important safety net for those individuals who need it most. Recognizing that many Pennsylvanians still lack access to health care coverage, Governor Corbett believes that the savings achieved through these reforms would enable Pennsylvania to work with the federal government to increase access for uninsured individuals.

- ✓ **Increase Access to Health Care for Uninsured Pennsylvanians.** Governor Corbett would like to provide a pathway to independence for all Pennsylvanians while working to provide access to private health care coverage options to low income citizens in a flexible and sustainable way while protecting taxpayers. When the federal government approves a realignment of benefits, cost sharing and premiums along with job training and work search requirements within the current Medicaid program, Pennsylvania would have the ability to afford to work with the federal government to utilize federal funds to give approximately 520,000 additional low-income Pennsylvanians (up to 133 percent of federal poverty who do not otherwise have health care coverage) the ability to enroll in private health insurance plans through the federal health insurance exchange. This would not be an expansion of Medicaid. Instead, because of the savings achieved through reform, this would give individuals real choices in coverage options in the private insurance market. Utilizing private coverage would require less bureaucracy, offer more provider options, allow more expedient implementation and protect state

programs by not putting Pennsylvania at risk if the federal government does not live up to the promise of funding. This state created solution for the Commonwealth and its citizens provides meaningful access to quality, affordable healthcare enhancing the patient doctor relationship while keeping government limited.