



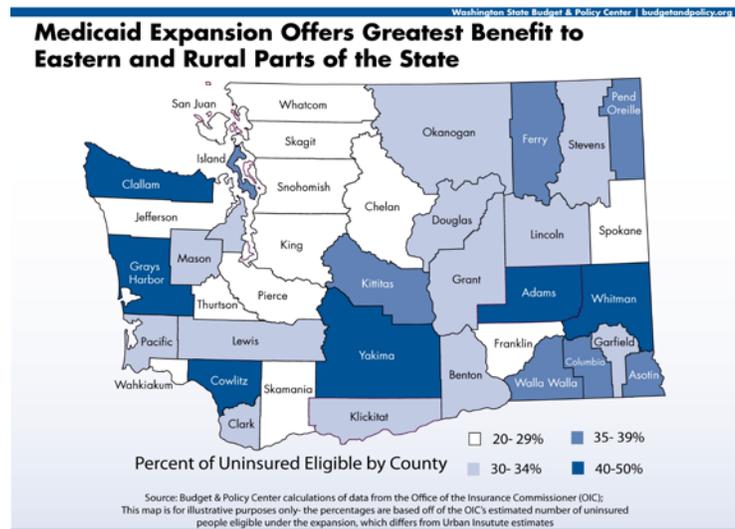
2013 Legislative Priorities

Expand Medicaid to ensure access to comprehensive health coverage for Washingtonians at or below 138% of federal poverty. Protect existing health care safety net programs that ensure access to care for hundreds of thousands of Washingtonians by examining every available revenue option.

Before leaving office, Governor Gregoire proposed a biennial budget that fully adopts the Medicaid expansion and protects funding for existing health care safety net programs, including Basic Health, Disability Lifeline and Apple Health for Kids. The proposed budget ensures that health care savings generated by Medicaid expansion and the hospital safety net assessment extension fund essential health care services. The Legislature and Governor Inslee should take advantage of this unprecedented coverage opportunity for low-income Washingtonians, while preserving existing safety net programs.

Secure the Medicaid Expansion

The Medicaid expansion is projected to save \$225 million in state funds next biennium while generating nearly a billion dollars in federal funds. Adopting the expansion is not only a fiscal winner for the state, but fully expanding Medicaid to 138% of federal poverty (about \$32,000 per year for a family of four) ensures health care coverage for over 250,000 more low-income Washingtonians. The expansion will bring access to preventive health care services—reducing the burden on emergency rooms and keeping our communities healthier, secure and productive. Communities across the state will benefit from this expansion, and Eastern and rural areas of the state will realize the greatest benefit because of the high prevalence of newly eligible individuals residing in those areas.



Protect Existing Health Care Safety Net Programs

For the past several years, state budget deficits have put critical safety net programs repeatedly at risk. Although the 2012 budget maintained funding, deep cuts to essential programs in previous years have taken a toll on people across the state. Many community health centers have struggled to keep their doors open after years of deep cuts to essential public programs and Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Investing the savings from Medicaid expansion and the hospital safety net assessment extension to offset further cuts to the safety net ensures that all of these essential programs will continue. It will protect Basic Health and Disability Lifeline for the final six months of 2013 before most of the enrollees transition into the Medicaid expansion—protecting over 40,000 people from a dangerous gap in health care coverage. The health care savings also preserves our successful Apple Health for Kids program, services for high-risk pregnant women, preventive dental care services for select vulnerable Medicaid enrollees and the recently modified interpreter services.

The community health center system is committed to meeting the expanding need for primary care in 2014 by leveraging the Medicaid expansion and existing safety net programs. We are ready to continue to partner with the state to ensure that communities receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place and in a proven cost-effective manner.