

# Backgrounder



**COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN**  
of Washington

*Committed to your health.*

## Origins

Community Health Plan was created in 1992 by a group of community health centers across Washington State that believed traditional health plans were not meeting the needs of their patients. For more than 30 years, the underinsured and low-income have relied on local clinics for comprehensive, quality, primary health care services and access to other vital local community services. The health plan's collaboration with its community health center delivery system gives it unique strengths, specifically the ability to address the comprehensive health needs of the communities it serves.

## Mission

Community Health Plan's mission is to deliver accessible managed care services which meet the needs and improve the health of our communities and make managed care participation beneficial for community responsive providers.

## Health Care Delivery System

Community Health Plan provides coverage for people in 33 Washington counties. Members receive services from more than 1,600 primary care providers and 8,000 specialists at more than 300 primary care sites and more than 90 hospitals. Community Health Plan is the sixth largest health program in Washington (commercial or non-profit). It is the state's largest provider for the Basic Health program and the second largest health plan serving members of the state's Medicaid program, including Healthy Options and the State Children's Health Insurance Program. It is a statewide, comprehensive delivery system of primary care providers who are dedicated to the mission, and who focus on treating the entire person, providing translation, transportation, dental, and mental health in addition to primary, preventative care.

## Populations Served

A sense of mission and strength in cultural competence are part of Community Health Plan's legacy. It is a leader in creating health care products and services tailored to meet the needs of low-income individuals and families, diverse ethnic groups, recent immigrants and people with disabilities. Together they comprise a substantial portion of Washington State's underserved and underinsured population. The health plan provides comprehensive managed care for patients on the state's Basic Health Plan, Healthy Options (Washington's managed Medicaid program), and the State Children's Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP). From the urban centers of Puget Sound to the rural communities of Eastern Washington, the Plan provides access to locally delivered treatment and services for more than 240,000 individuals and families. In addition, the system of statewide clinics serve an ever-growing number of people who are uninsured and would otherwise not have access to needed health care services.

## Health Care Policy

Community Health Plan is a vocal, visible catalyst for change, responding to emerging needs and improving existing systems. The health plan passionately advocates for policy that ensures access to health care for every Washington resident. From main street to Olympia to Washington, D.C., the health plan organizes at the grassroots level while working closely with legislators and regulators to shape policy that's more effective. Community Health Plan is also critical to serving the underinsured. It has filled the gap left by other health plans by increasing capacity at existing locations, adding new clinics and providers, and expanding into more counties.

## Community Investments

Unlike traditional health plans, Community Health Plan measures success by the health care dollars it's able to return to its communities, such as continually reinvesting in health centers so they can provide better care to more people and funding measures which improve service quality.

For more information, contact:

David Kinard, Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications  
Community Health Plan  
206.613.8949