

Key Messages for Implementation of Affordable Care Act in Shasta County

Stakeholders in Shasta County are undergoing significant changes to implement health care reform in Shasta County.

In an effort to offer health care coverage to almost all residents of Shasta County, stakeholders will not only expand their current client base but will also work with CoveredCalifornia, the State's mandated health exchange, to help newly eligible Shasta County residents make informed choices about selecting the best health care plan for themselves and their family.

Having a basic understanding about health care reform, the Affordable Care Act and its impact on the health and wellbeing of our community is critical for HHS staff. These key messages may help you communicate with clients and the general public.

- About 10,000 low-income Shasta County residents will have access to quality, no- or low-cost health coverage through the Medi-Cal.
- An estimated 15,000 Shasta County residents with incomes up to 400% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will qualify income tax credits or subsidies for private health insurance through CoveredCalifornia, the state's mandated health exchange.
- It's no longer a question of *who* is eligible for health care coverage, it is a question of *which option* they are eligible to receive.
- People who already have insurance can keep their insurance. Uninsured individuals will be able to access more affordable coverage, and receive subsidies if they are eligible.
- Benefits of health care reform include:
 - more insured residents reduce overall health care costs for all
 - individuals cannot be denied coverage because of pre-existing conditions
 - preventative health care like mammograms and contraception are included
 - no lifetime cap on medical expenses
 - young adults can be covered on their parents' plan up to age 26
- Small businesses will be able to pick from a variety of plans, and may be eligible for tax credits to offer their employees coverage.
- HHS is working collaboratively with Partnership HealthPlan of California to ensure that Medi-Cal beneficiaries will continue to receive consistent, quality care during their transition to managed care.

Learn more at www.coveredca.com