

**State Planning Project for the Uninsured
Models Development Workgroup
August 22, 2005 Update to the Advisory Council**

The Models Development Workgroup is currently reviewing and assessing models for expanding health insurance to uninsured Michigan citizens. The workgroup is assessing the viability and acceptability of various expansion options in terms of their impact on existing coverage and on the safety net system. The overarching goal of this workgroup is to use information from the data analyses and model assessments to recommend a set of realistic strategies and viable option for expanding health insurance coverage in Michigan.

The Models Development Workgroup is engaged in:

1. Formulating issue papers on coverage options after assessing models in terms of feasibility, cost and acceptability. These activities include:
 - Searching the literature, including options utilized by other states.
 - Developing a framework for analyzing and organizing information.
 - Reviewing information from the household survey, employer survey, focus groups, and key informant interviews, as soon as it is available, to understand the:
 - Number of people who are insured and uninsured.
 - Relevant characteristics of both groups.
 - Reasons Michiganians do not have health insurance.
 - Reviewing information from town hall meetings to understand:
 - Citizen perceptions and expectations regarding health insurance issues.
 - Standards of acceptability for guiding the models and plan development process.
 - The nature and extent of the problems faced by Michigan's uninsured.
 - Developing a list of advantages and disadvantages for selected expansion options.
 - Exploring financing mechanisms.
 - Developing cost projections of selected expansion options.
 - Reviewing the experiences of states having implemented various expansion options.
 - Assessing each option's features in the context of Michigan's:
 - Current needs (e.g. the characteristics of Michigan's uninsured).
 - Health insurance market.
 - Health care delivery system.
 - Impact on safety net providers.
 - Impact on stakeholders.
2. Develop and recommend a prioritized list of health insurance expansion options to the Advisory Council after the above is completed. This will include:
 - Identifying plan acceptance strategies.
 - Organizing strategic sessions for the Advisory Council and Workgroup Members to review issue papers and score expansion models based on their acceptability and viability.
 - Prioritizing models determined acceptable and viable to reflect the necessary staging of efforts to achieve health insurance coverage for all Michigan citizens.
 - Identifying effective strategies to aid in the adoption of the plan by key policy makers.
 - Reviewing input from key informants and using that information to develop a comprehensive and attractive plan.