

**Putting Washington to Work,
Rebuilding our Economy**

Governor Inslee's top priority is to create and sustain a thriving economic climate that spurs job growth in every industry sector and every corner of Washington state. Our schools and businesses must work together to prepare students and workers for today's jobs and the jobs of the future. The comprehensive jobs plan builds on Washington's long tradition of innovation and harnesses our unique abilities to lead in the global economy.

WORKING WASHINGTON AGENDA

Educating a 21st century workforce

Improving the business climate and expanding our workforce

Advancing Washington's aerospace leadership

Health care reform: healthy people, healthy economy ▶

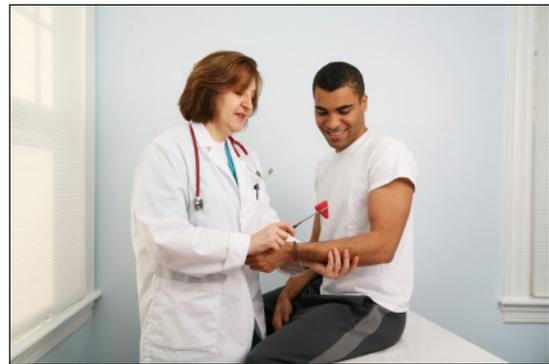
Clean energy, climate action and plentiful water

Health Care Reform: Healthy People, Healthy Economy

Governor Inslee understands that people need access to affordable health care to lead productive, enjoyable lives. Expanding access to health care through the federal Affordable Care Act means that thousands more citizens will get the care they need when they need it. By fully embracing health care reform, we will improve people's health, shrink the burden of uncompensated "charity" care on hospitals and health care providers, generate big savings for state taxpayers and create thousands of jobs statewide.

Health care is an issue of great significance to Washington residents. Recent health care trends are concerning:

- » The rate of uninsured adults in our state has been on the rise — increasing from 12.9 percent in 2006 to 15.5 percent in 2008 and 17.9 percent in 2010.
- » From 2008 to 2010, charity care by hospitals and health care providers rose a staggering 36 percent.
- » From 2003 to 2010, the average health insurance premium for an individual in Washington rocketed 42 percent. For a family, the increase was 54 percent.



Medicaid expansion and the health care exchange

Governor Inslee proposes to fully implement two of the Affordable Care Act's biggest components:

- » The option for states to expand Medicaid coverage to more very low-income individuals.
- » The creation of the health benefit exchange (Washington Healthplanfinder), a new, online marketplace for individuals, families and small businesses in Washington.

Research shows that access to health care saves lives and money. In the next biennium alone, health care reform will save a net \$142 million in state taxpayer dollars while

extending Medicaid coverage to an estimated 254,000 newly eligible adults. This will ensure that all Washingtonians have access to affordable health care.

Under the Affordable Care Act, states have the option of expanding their Medicaid program in January 2014 to cover people with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level (for single adults, less than \$15,000 a year). The Act requires the federal government to cover 100 percent of the costs for newly eligible people through 2016. Beginning in 2017, the state share would be 5 percent, growing to 10 percent by 2020.

Governor Inslee fully supports Medicaid expansion and has urged legislators to make it a top budget priority. Over the next two years, Medicaid expansion will bring \$1.2 billion in new federal funds to the state and create an estimated 10,282 jobs (health care and indirect).

In an unprecedented multi-agency campaign, the state Department of Social and Health Services, Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Health Care Authority and the independent exchange will collaborate to ensure:

- » A streamlined Medicaid program that offers outcome-driven, high-quality and accessible health coverage for low-income and vulnerable individuals at sustainable rates.
- » Successful implementation of Washington Healthplanfinder so it is ready to begin enrolling consumers Oct. 1, 2013, for health insurance coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2014.

Washington Healthplanfinder will allow users to compare and enroll in affordable health insurance options through access to tax credits, greater cost sharing and public programs such as Medicaid. The exchange is now funded by federal grants through 2014. The independent Exchange Board has provided the Legislature with funding options for 2015 and beyond, using funds derived from plans offered on the exchange, not General-Fund State dollars.

Governor Inslee's priorities

- » Fully implement the Affordable Care Act in Washington, including Medicaid expansion
- » Support creation and implementation of Healthplanfinder, an online marketplace for individuals, families and small businesses