



BLUEPRINT for HEALTH NEW MEXICO

Designing Better Health for Children & Families



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Blueprint for Health New Mexico?

Federal health care reform became law in March 2010 and will expand coverage to an estimated 32 million Americans, including more than an estimated 275,000 New Mexicans when it is fully implemented in 2014.

Blueprint for Health New Mexico is a collaborative planning and design effort to develop a statewide work plan to successfully implement the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) to improve the health of New Mexico's children and families.

How is Blueprint for Health New Mexico being funded?

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded Con Alma Health Foundation (CAHF) a six-month strategic planning grant (April–September) to help guide New Mexico's implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

Why was Con Alma Health Foundation selected?

Health care reform can be complex and sometimes controversial partially because of various stakeholders' different views and health care needs.

Con Alma Health Foundation has invested more than \$10 million during the past ten years to improve the health of New Mexicans. Building on this decade of bringing people and organizations together to improve health, Con Alma Health Foundation has a reputation as an *unbiased convener* and the ability to *work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders*.

What is the short term goal of Blueprint for Health New Mexico?

The short term goal is to complete a work plan for statewide implementation of health care reform focusing on children and families with an emphasis on improving health outcomes in four counties: Bernalillo, Doña Ana, McKinley and San Juan.

What is the long term goal of Blueprint for Health New Mexico?

The long term goal is to improve health outcomes for vulnerable children and families across New Mexico through the successful implementation of health care reform.

Who will be involved with Blueprint for Health New Mexico?

Blueprint Advisory Network, a diverse stakeholder group, has been formed to provide guidance and strategic planning to help New Mexico implement health care reform. A *Blueprint Resource Team* will perform research and analysis to link the strategic plan to implementation action.

How is BluePrint for Health New Mexico different from other implementation efforts?

Because people have different views and health care needs, BluePrint for Health New Mexico is taking a multi-stakeholder approach and is committed to a local community-based participatory process to expand involvement and ensure diverse stakeholder interests are included.

BluePrint Advisory Network will reflect New Mexico's vibrant diversity and will guide the planning and implementation process to build trust and develop common and realistic goals.

BluePrint Advisory Network includes representatives from the community, private and non-profit employers, policy makers, government entities, and members of the Resource Team.

How will community needs and input be used to change our health care system?

Local community organizations will be asked for their input. BluePrint for Health New Mexico is a collaborative planning and design effort to provide communities the opportunity to make a difference in developing a statewide work plan to implement federal health care reform with an emphasis on improving health outcomes in four counties: Bernalillo, Doña Ana, McKinley and San Juan. Local community representatives in these four counties are part of the Resource Team and will be asked for their input through the planning process. The New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils is also a member.

How will the root causes of health inequity be addressed in the work plan?

The Con Alma Health Foundation promotes health equity by supporting greater access to health care and improved quality of health care for all New Mexicans with a special emphasis on people of color and rural and tribal communities. BluePrint for Health New Mexico reflects this core value by acknowledging and incorporating innovative strategies to address the root causes of health inequity, including poverty, race, education, etc.

What is the BluePrint Resource Team?

A *BluePrint Resource Team* will perform research and analysis to link the strategic plan to implementation action. The BluePrint Resource Team will research opportunities to increase health care access for children and families; identify and coordinate current and past New Mexico health improvement efforts; review existing New Mexico implementation efforts and identify future actions needed in New Mexico in order to take advantage of opportunities to develop health care community capacity. The BluePrint Resource Team will also develop strategies to maximize federal resources for prevention programs and public health interventions. The Resource Team includes individuals and non-profits with legal, data research and policy analysis expertise. Reports from the BluePrint Resource Team will be available by late fall, 2011.

What will the BluePrint Advisory Network do?

The *BluePrint Advisory Network* will guide the planning and implementation process to design and build a statewide plan with emphasis on vulnerable children and families and targeted communities to successfully implement health care reform as required by federal law. The plan will be data driven and community and common ground focused. The BluePrint Advisory Network will build capacity and increase coordination to address community needs and implementation readiness.

When will BluePrint for Health New Mexico finalize their efforts?

The strategic planning grant is currently scheduled to be completed the end of September.

How will a statewide plan be developed in such a short time?

BluePrint for Health New Mexico has four planning phases that are anticipated to be completed later this fall.

Assessment – Profile community needs, resources, and readiness to implement health care reform, and identify strategies that lead to successful implementation. The assessment phase also includes an inventory and analysis of current New Mexico reform implementation efforts. The resulting report will make recommendations for statewide implementation; legislative initiatives, lessons learned including stumbling blocks or barriers such as workforce development, infrastructure, political climate; opportunities for moving forward with statewide implementation strategies.

Capacity Building – Mobilize and/or build capacity to address needs and implement reform. The capacity phase aims to create and maintain partnerships and to pursue a common agenda.

Planning – Develop a work plan with shared goals, objectives and performance targets, and select policies, programs, activities and strategies to implement the work plan.

Implementation – Implement work plan including programs, policies, activities, and strategies. A staffing plan will be developed to support the collective effort and serve as the backbone for the initiative. Implementation of the work plan does not happen in this six month phase.

Evaluation – Monitor and evaluate the planning process by collecting and analyzing data, evaluate capacity building and group interaction.

The law is expansive and complex. How will this project focus on so many aspects of health care reform?

Blueprint for Health New Mexico has narrowed its focus to 10 areas of successful implementation as designed by the National Academy for State Health Policy (see http://www.nashp.org/sites/default/files/state.policymaker.priorities.for_health.reform.pdf)

Each focus area will include opportunities for New Mexico. Reports on each focus area will be included in the overall plan.

Be Strategic with Insurance Exchange – Review executive, legislative and federal implementation issues for potential insurance exchange structure; develop eligibility and enrollment policy recommendations with a focus on exempt populations, e.g. Native Americans; and identify opportunities for community-based educational outreach.

Regulate the Commercial Health Insurance Market Effectively – Focus on protection for children and analyze the federal consumer protection requirements; the Superintendent of Insurance’s authority to enforce insurance reforms; and summarize existing and required consumer complaint procedures and satisfaction systems.

Simplify and Integrate Eligibility Systems – Develop strategies to increase enrollment and access to publicly funded health coverage programs for children and families, and develop seamless transition strategies between Medicaid, state plans, etc.

Expand Provider and Health System Capacity – Map and compare New Mexico’s current and 2014 implementation health care systems with a focus on coverage, quality, and access.

Attend to Benefit Design - Consider Medicaid benefit redesign with an emphasis on improved health outcomes for children.

Focus on the Dually Eligible - Consider Medicaid benefit redesign with an emphasis on improved health outcomes for dual-eligible and elderly population enrollees.

Use Your Data - Analyze new required data collection provisions and develop recommendations to combine different source data and prioritize health disparities and related minority health data and gaps; recommend system data to monitor population health; prioritize health improvement and health disparity for progress tracking.

Pursue Population Health Goals - Identify early childhood federal funding opportunities and recommend child-focused statewide implementation plan; review Accountable Care Organization opportunities; review resource opportunities and implementation suggestions to fill potential progress gaps for Community Improvement Plans; and develop community-based participatory performance measure and community meetings for Doña Ana County Health Alliance.

Engage the Public in Policy Development and Implementation - Build upon and expand public involvement and input; analyze economic impacts of federal reform, including Medicaid expansion; review Consumer Oriented and Operated Plans (CO-Ops) opportunities; and report on past and existing reform implementation efforts as opportunities to move forward.

Native American Focus - Review statewide federal health care reform implementation for Native Americans, Native communities, and Tribal governments; identify increased access to health care services opportunities, including development of financing mechanisms and improving Indian health systems; and identify funding opportunities for tribal communities, tribal organizations, consortiums and urban Indian health programs.

Demand Quality and Efficiency from the Health Care System - Improve overall system delivery with health care metric quality outcomes, public health improvement, and quality/transparency indicators to inform consumers, businesses, and purchasers when inefficiencies and higher costs occur.

How will data be used to make decisions?

The strategic plan will be evidence based and data driven. We will bridge data to prioritize health disparities. Data regarding community health already exists. BluePrint for Health New Mexico will analyze existing data and the new required data collection provisions to develop recommendations to: combine different source data and prioritize health disparities and related minority health data and gaps; recommend system data to monitor population health; prioritize health improvement and health disparities for progress tracking.

What about the cultural implications of using data?

We are aware communities own their own data and there are cultural sensitivities to sharing data. BluePrint for Health New Mexico will work with stakeholders to ensure that decisions related to implementation of reform are based on sound and current data. There are numerous provisions in the PPACA requiring collection of new data. BluePrint for Health New Mexico will analyze these provisions and develop strategies and recommendations to combine data from different sources and select priority areas for analysis, including disparities and related minority health data or lack thereof.

What happens once a Strategic Plan is developed?

The strategic plan will be distributed and presented across the state to an expanded list of policy makers, community groups, private and non-profit employers, and government entities to build strong acceptance of the plan.

Isn't it the State's role to develop an implementation plan for health care reform?

Yes, but new federal law requires significant stakeholder input into the implementation efforts in each state. Input from a diverse range of stakeholders will be valuable to the state in order to move forward. This is not a competition or a race. We all want healthier outcomes and the security and peace of mind of knowing we have coverage we can count on when we need it. Past and present health care reform efforts will help all New Mexicans reach these goals.

How will this effort coordinate with the New Mexico Office of Health Care Reform?

BluePrint for Health New Mexico invited the New Mexico Office of Health Care Reform (OHCR) to serve on the Advisory Network. It is anticipated both initiatives will share data, information and progress status as each move forward with their work.

The Governor has called for a repeal of the health care reform law. How will this be addressed?

The current law will result in several sweeping changes in 2014, e.g. expansion of Medicaid, creation of Health Insurance Exchanges. While efforts to repeal the law have been initiated around the country, it is still critical for NM communities to plan for implementation in order to ensure it meets the needs of the thousands of people who will be affected by these changes.

Will information, data and reports be shared with the public?

Yes. BluePrint for Health New Mexico is committed to community discussion and discourse. The final reports and work plan will be available on the BluePrint for Health New Mexico website currently in development. It is anticipated the website will serve as an information depository and provide links to health care reform initiatives and the public, private and government organizations working to improve health outcomes.

Who can I contact if I have questions or comments?

Please contact either of the following BluePrint for Health New Mexico Project Co-Directors:

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How can I keep informed about BluePrint for Health New Mexico efforts?

For more information, please go to www.blueprintnm.org



CAHF's mission is to be aware of and respond to the health rights and needs of the culturally and demographically diverse people and communities of New Mexico. Con Alma seeks to improve the health status and access to health care services for all and advocates for a health policy that addresses the health needs of all New Mexicans. For more information, visit www.conalma.org.

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