

Getting to the Finish Line

Health Care for All in Oregon.

Common Ground Priorities of the Oregon Healthcare Advocacy Allies

The Health Policy Board has a vital role to play in order to achieve our shared goal of ensuring that, by the end of 2015, all Oregonians are enrolled in a health plan which provides quality health care that is: a) accessible; b) affordable; c) comprehensive; d) accountable; e) portable; and f) equitably financed.

We believe that required legislation developed by the Oregon Health Fund Board / Health Policy Board to achieve these goals will include the following essential components.

- All people must be able to participate in a health plan with a core set of essential benefits that meet standards of quality and accessibility, and that include comprehensive health services.
- Exchange participants must have the choice of a publicly owned and administered plan guided by a set of rules that will foster high quality care health care, control costs, eliminate disparities in health outcomes and ensure maximum value.
- Consumers' health care costs for essential benefits, including premiums, deductibles, and co-payments must be affordable and based on a sliding scale.
- Essential health services for prevention, primary care, and management of chronic health conditions must be available without out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles, co-pays, and co-insurance.
- People should have the option for continuous enrollment in the plan of their choice even if circumstances such as employment or income change.
- Accountable health plans must invest in capacity to eliminate disparities in outcomes, deliver care and overcome geographic, language and cultural barriers to access.
- No one should be denied health care coverage or charged higher premiums because of pre-existing conditions or age.
- Financing for Oregon's reformed health system must be fair and equitable. It should be based on a sustainable mix of contributions from employers, individuals, and providers based on their ability to pay.
- An easy to understand grievance and appeals process along with the establishment of an independent health care ombudsprogram with investigative, negotiation, and reporting functions is essential for maximizing consumer confidence in plan accountability.

The priorities above were developed in a collaborative process by a number of advocacy organizations during the fall of 2008. They were and are intended to guide our collective efforts to ensure that health reform efforts include the ingredients necessary for success. Organizations involved in the development of these priorities include:

Organizations involved in the development of these priorities include the Oregon Health Action