



Faith-Based Resources: Organizations and Web Sites

Catholic Health Association

Web site: <http://www.chausa.org/>

The Catholic Health Association is a ministry of the Catholic Church that offers direct health care services. It also participates in advocacy efforts, including a campaign called “Covering the Nation,” which promotes universal health care. The group has excellent resources on how to “frame” the issue of uninsurance, as well as the importance of accessible health care, from both historical and faith-based perspectives.

Catholic Health Initiatives

Web site: <http://www.catholichealthinit.org/>

Catholic Health Initiatives, another ministry of the Catholic Church, is both a direct service provider and an advocacy organization. The group’s Web site describes their community involvement and advocacy efforts.

Center for Healthcare Reform (CHR): St. Joseph Health System

Web site: <http://www.stjhs.org/chr/>

CHR seeks to extend the Catholic health care ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange by improving the health of people in the communities they serve. The CHR joins people of all faiths in a movement to create health care policies and practices that are fair and just. Resources available on the group’s Web site include a program of prayer with suggestions on how to incorporate this program into sermons, as well as tips on political action and on helping enroll children in health programs. (Please also see: “Our Healthcare Future”)

Children’s Defense Fund (CDF)

Web site: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/PageServer?pagename=homepage>

CDF is a nonprofit organization committed to giving every child a healthy, safe, and fair start in life. Their resources include a “Children’s Sabbath Manual,” available for a small fee, that provides easy-to-use lesson plans, clip art, ideas for hands-on service and advocacy efforts, as well as worship materials for Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Bahá’í, Unitarian Universalist, and other faith traditions.

Children’s Health Matters

Web site: <http://www.childrenshealthmatters.org/>

Children’s Health Matters is a coalition of seven different Catholic organizations, including Ascension Health, Bon Secours Health System, Catholic Charities USA, the Catholic Health Association of the United States, Catholic Health East, Catholic Health Initiatives, and Catholic Healthcare Partners, that are all committed to ensuring that children have access to quality health coverage. The coalition works to help raise both awareness of, and enrollment in, Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) through advocacy, education, and outreach efforts.

Cover the Uninsured Week: Faith Planning Center

Web site: <http://covertheuninsured.org/faith/>

Cover the Uninsured Week (a project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) is an annual, weeklong campaign designed to mobilize people across the nation to let Congress know that health care must be their top priority. The campaign's Web site provides a link to the Faith Planning Center, an extension of the campaign that has numerous helpful resources. These resources include bulletin inserts; information fliers; suggestions on how to organize congregations around health care issues; an official "Call to Care" signed by the National Interfaith Advisory Board; and materials for prayer and study for Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faith leaders.

Covering Kids & Families

Web site: <http://coveringkidsandfamilies.org/>

Covering Kids & Families is a national initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focused on reducing the number of uninsured children and adults through enrollment in Medicaid or SCHIP. The initiative is a collaborative project with involvement from both secular and faith-based organizations. There are many helpful resources on the group's Web site, including an Interfaith Toolkit, a guide to successful strategies, and a list of ways to get involved in the campaign.

Faith and Politics

Web site: <http://faithandpolitics.org/>

Faith and Politics is a non-partisan institute whose focus is on emphasizing the role of faith in encouraging elected officials to embrace the common good over political gain.

Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care: Health Care Justice Faith Caucus

Web site: <http://www.cbhconline.org/HCJC/FaithCaucus.htm>

The Faith Caucus is a network of religious leaders and faith organizations in Illinois that is committed to improving health care. Their most recent campaign, "Health Care Sabbath," which took place on September 15-17, 2006, provides a useful model of how to raise awareness about the injustice of health care disparities. Advocates can order a copy of the toolkit created for the event through the group's Web site. The toolkit includes a background section detailing the importance of the issues, resources for study, worship and prayer guides, and advocacy ideas.

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

Web site: <http://www.gsadvocacy.org/>

The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd advocates for issues of peace, justice, and fair access to health care, among several top priorities. The resources on the group's Web site include weekly action alerts, tips and advice for advocates, voter resources, faith-based resources, and comprehensive background information on all of the issues they work on, including universal health care.

National Association of Evangelicals (NAE)

Web site: <http://www.nae.net/>

NAE serves the evangelical community in several ways, including providing strategic planning. The group recently put forth an “Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility,” which asks evangelicals to make health care a priority issue and to exercise their civic duty in voting and advocating for a more responsible and open health care system based on Christian ethics.

National Health Ministries: Presbyterian Church USA

Web site: <http://www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth/index.htm>

The National Health Ministries is a comprehensive health care campaign launched by the USA Presbyterian Church. Their Web site includes a variety of resources, from advice on healthy lifestyles to family health programs to health care advocacy. It also provides resources on a number of current health policy topics, as well as detailed background and action steps.

NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

Web site: http://www.networklobby.org/issues/health_care.html

NETWORK is a progressive Catholic organization that lobbies and advocates for social justice causes, including universal health care. The group works in coalition with both secular and faith-based organizations to establish a system that guarantees health care for all. (Please also see “Our Healthcare Future”)

Our Healthcare Future: The Dialogue

Web site: www.ourhealthcarefuture.org

Our Healthcare Future is a national grassroots effort that is a collaborative project of NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby, the St. Joseph Health System, the Georgetown Medical Center, and Allegany Franciscan Ministries Inc. In addition to hosting online discussions on the current state of the U.S. health care system and future directions for reform, Our Healthcare Future also provides the tools and resources for local community leaders to host their own “Dialogues” on these issues and to discuss solutions in a local setting.

PICO National Network

Web site: <http://www.piconetwork.org/qualityhealthcare.html>

PICO is a national network of faith-based community organizations working to create innovative solutions to problems facing urban, suburban, and rural communities. One of the issues the group works on is bringing quality health care to all. PICO California is particularly dedicated to advocating for quality health care. Their Web site (<http://www.picalifornia.org/healthcare.html>) explains their Healthy Kids Campaign and provides useful “Healthy Family” resource manuals.

Religious Action Center: Union for Reform Judaism

Web site: <http://www.rac.org/advocacy/issues/issuehc/>

Religious Action Center is the social action portion of the Union for Reform Judaism. Their Web site discusses their position on policy issues such as health care, lists press releases detailing their involvement in various issues, and provides links to relevant and helpful Web sites.

United Church of Christ (UCC)

Web site: <http://www.ucc.org/justice/health/>

The United Church of Christ is a long-time advocate of universal health care. Their Web site provides links to the church's resolution on universal health care, as well as helpful documents such as "The Face of Inadequate Health Care May Look Like Yours and Mine!" and "Health Care Justice: The Time is Now!"

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries of the UCC (CHHSM)

Web site: <http://www.chhsm.org/>

CHHSM is the largest component of the UCC Health ministry. It is comprised of more than 80 corporate members, all affiliated with the United Church of Christ, that operate facilities and programs that provide health care, as well as services for children, people with disabilities, and seniors. CHHSM works closely with Lutheran Services in America (www.lutheranservices.org), especially on advocacy issues. The CHHSM Web site includes links to several advocacy alerts that summarize current health issues and how these issues can affect people's everyday lives.

Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN): Faith Project

Web site: <http://www.uhcan.org/faith/>

The UHCAN Faith Project is an interfaith initiative that encourages the faith community to mobilize around health care issues. This initiative stems from their belief that it is a *moral imperative* that health care be provided for all. The group's Web site offers sample bulletin inserts, sermons, prayers, and music that can be used in worship services to involve congregants in issues of health care, as well as useful tips on advocacy and organizing. Especially helpful is "Seeking Justice in Health Care: a Guide for Advocates in Faith Communities," an 80-page manual that presents an overview of the U.S. health care system in lay language and places the nation's health care crisis in the context of social justice.