



HOW HEALTH REFORM HELPS COMMUNITIES OF COLOR IN NEVADA

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The historic health reform law moves our nation toward a health care system that covers many more people, reforms the insurance industry, improves the quality of care, and curbs rising costs. The benefits and protections in the new law also lay a critical foundation for eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities and promoting health equity. This is especially important for Nevada, where people of color make up 41 percent of the state's population.^{1,2}

Communities of color in Nevada stand to gain from the new health care law – both from those provisions that will affect all communities but have a disproportionate impact on communities of color and from those that are designed specifically to eliminate health disparities. We describe these provisions in more detail below.

EXPANDS ACCESS TO COVERAGE

Health reform will increase coverage and reduce the number of uninsured by doing the following:

■ Expanding Medicaid

In 2014, Medicaid coverage will be expanded to cover children and adults with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level, roughly \$14,403 for an individual and \$24,352 for a family of three in 2010. Approximately 53 percent of those who will be newly eligible for Medicaid in Nevada in 2014 will be from a racial or ethnic minority group.³ This Medicaid expansion will provide coverage to many racial and ethnic minority individuals and families who would otherwise go without quality, affordable health coverage, particularly adults without dependent children.