

Guiding Principles for Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee Adopted August 10, 2006

1. The goal is universal coverage, that is to identify a model or models of health coverage for all people living in New Mexico to purchase or be provided health care coverage, whether public or private, and that are affordable for individuals, taxpayers, employers, and other payers.
2. Models analyzed must be financially viable and possible in New Mexico, taking into account costs, impact on New Mexico's economy, the health of its people, and the rising cost of health care.
3. Models analyzed should consider the quality (including outcomes and wellness) and cost of health care for individuals, not just the cost of health coverage for payers.
4. Multiple approaches may be required to develop and finance the different coverage needs of different ages and types of populations within New Mexico.
5. A combination of public and private approaches may be necessary, with the state and federal government providing strong leadership and oversight roles; and government, employers, individuals/families and the clinical community sharing responsibility for health outcomes and the cost of health coverage.
6. Persons and families with low incomes or high health care needs should be assisted in purchasing, accessing or enrolling in available health care coverage.
7. Models must take into account that health, health coverage, and economic development are intrinsically linked with a) improved health of people living in New Mexico having a positive impact on economic development; b) strong economic development playing a role in improving the health status of people living in New Mexico; and c) health coverage impacting access to health care and health status and outcomes in New Mexico.