

HEALTH CARE

A strong economy and promising future are grounded on the health of our citizens. Washington state is a national leader in ensuring all its citizens, including those who cannot afford their own coverage, have an opportunity to access health care.

The state's dedication to a healthy populace is reflected in the robust level of health care services provided to its most vulnerable populations. This leadership has resulted in Washington routinely being considered one of the healthiest states in the country. Services considered optional by federal standards include hospice, dental, vision, hearing, podiatry, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy, as well as prescription drug coverage. In addition, Washington has been in the forefront in ensuring that future generations grow up healthy by providing health care coverage for children up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

Yet given the state's fiscal challenges, Washington can no longer afford to be so generous. The budget eliminates, reduces or suspends a number of these discretionary programs.

Actions

Eliminate the Basic Health Program, which provides health care coverage for approximately 65,000 individuals. *(\$160.6 million General Fund-State)*

Eliminate the General Assistance Unemployable Medical Services program, which provides health care for approximately 20,000 individuals. *(\$118.9 million GF-S)*

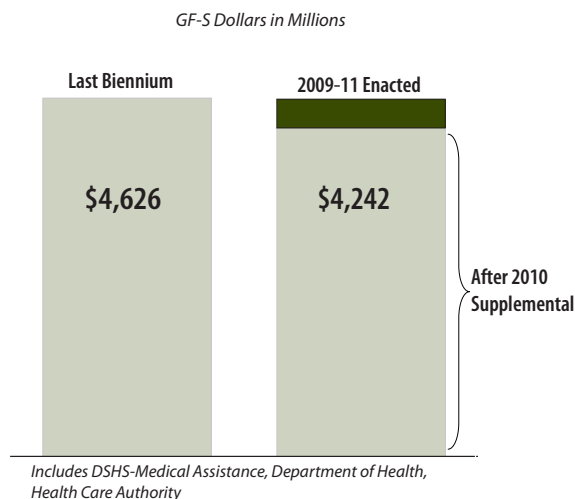
Eliminate early intervention and direct client services for 2,500 HIV and HIV-vulnerable clients. *(\$10.5 million GF-S)*

Reduce eligibility for the Apple Health program from 300 percent of the federal poverty level to less than 205 percent of the federal poverty level, which eliminates health care coverage for 16,000 low-income children. *(\$11.6 million GF-S)*

Suspend the non-medical maternity support program, which serves more than 50,000 high-risk pregnant women with childbirth education and nutrition services. *(\$28 million GF-S)*

Suspend non-emergent adult dental services, which are provided to more than 120,000 clients per year. *(\$13.9 million GF-S)*

Suspend the Medicare Part-D co-payment reimbursement program, which provides prescription drug assistance for more than 85,000 Medicaid-eligible elderly clients. *(\$7.8 million GF-S)*



Suspend adult hospice care, which provides end-of-life services for 2,600 individuals, beginning Jan. 1, 2011. (*\$6.2 million GF-S*)

Suspend the following optional Medicaid services for adults:

- » Physical, occupational and speech therapies, which serve more than 20,000 clients. (*\$4.5 million GF-S*)
- » Non-medical vision services, which provide preventive and corrective services for more than 95,000 clients. (*\$1.7 million GF-S*)
- » Podiatry services for more than 14,000 clients. (*\$996,000 GF-S*)