

Ohio Family Coverage Coalition

Legislative Priorities, 2006-2007

The Ohio Family Coverage Coalition is a coalition of organizations representing diverse interest groups working with the public and private sectors to expand health care coverage for low income families and people by advocating affordable and adequate options. OFCC's Legislative Priorities for 2006-2007 are:

- ✓ **Restore Medicaid Parents' Coverage to 100% Federal Poverty Level:** *In the last budget the General Assembly reduced Medicaid eligibility for parents from 100% FPL to 90% FPL. At least 25,000 parents are expected to lose eligibility because of the cutback. The state fiscal condition is now much improved, and eligibility should be restored to 100% FPL.*
- ✓ **Establish an Employer/Employee/Public Insurance Product to Provide Affordable Coverage for Small Employers, with Premium Assistance to Low-Wage Employees:** *Many of Ohio's uninsured adults are employees of small businesses and self-employed persons. Ohio should establish a new private insurance product modeled on Medicaid to provide an affordable health coverage alternative to small employers and self-employed persons without health coverage, and a Premium Assistance program to help low-income employees pay their premium share. Approximately 425,000 working Ohioans fall into these categories.*
- ✓ **Restore Funding to the Full Disability Medical Assistance Program:** *DMA is a state-funded program providing physicians and life-saving prescription drug coverage to indigent, medication-dependent adults who have not met the strict eligibility requirements for Medicaid as disabled. An estimated 30,000 Ohioans are eligible for DMA. However, funding reductions by the legislature since 2003 have kept the program closed to new applicants, with current enrollment below 6,000.*
 - ✓ **Roll back out-of-pocket costs for low-income people in public health care programs:** *After paying basic living expenses, low-income Medicaid beneficiaries lack extra money to pay even small premiums or co-pays for the health care they need. Numerous studies have shown that cost-sharing causes Medicaid beneficiaries to go without needed health care, leading to more costly treatment down the line.*

Members of OFCC: ABLE (Cleveland), CareSource, The Center for Community Solutions, The Center for Families and Children, Children's Defense Fund of Ohio, Family Service Council of Ohio, The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland, Legal Aid Society of Cincinnati, League of Women Voters of Ohio, Mental Health Advocacy Coalition, Ohio Association of Community Health Centers, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, Ohio Association of Free Clinics, Ohio Covering Kids and Families Coalition, Ohio Empowerment Coalition, Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio National Organization for Women, Ohio State Legal Services Association, Ohio United Way, Organize Ohio, Public Children's Services Association of Ohio, UHCAN Ohio, Voices for Children of Greater Cleveland, United Way of Greater Cincinnati (revised 8/17/06)