



Coverage 4 All

A campaign of Health Care for All New York (HCFANY) led by Make the Road New York and the New York Immigration Coalition

FY2020 Policy and Budget Priority

Recommendation

Allocate \$542 million to create a state-funded Essential Plan for ALL New Yorkers up to 200% of the federal poverty level, regardless of immigration status, with particular urgency for immigrants who will be losing their Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and thus their current health insurance eligibility.

Needs

New York state elected officials, led by Governor Cuomo, have passionately committed to protecting and supporting immigrant communities under attack from Washington. The health coverage system for immigrant New Yorkers is already fraught due to restrictions on coverage. About 433,000 New Yorkers are unable to access comprehensive coverage because of their immigration status. Given anti-immigrant policy in Washington, the state's role in providing health coverage to New Yorkers is more important than ever. When the Trump Administration announced the cancelation of DACA in September 2017, the Governor said, "New York State believes it has a legal and moral obligation to exhaust every available avenue to protect immigrants and their families by providing comprehensive access to health care, regardless of circumstance." The Governor's affirmation in January 2018 that individuals with DACA are eligible for state-funded Medicaid even after their DACA expires follows New York's long tradition of investing in equitable health coverage for immigrants.

The Trump Administration has also been eliminating TPS for many countries as they are up for renewal. TPS allows people living in the U.S to work with authorization, and to be protected from deportation, if it would be unsafe or inhumane for them to have to return to their country because of a crisis like a war or a hurricane. As these individuals lose their TPS, they will also lose their ability to access health insurance. Finally, the proposed "public charge" rule, which threatens to dramatically chill participation in lifesaving public programs such as Medicaid, makes decisive state commitments to immigrant communities more critical than ever.

Key Points

- New York has a history of providing coverage to immigrant communities excluded from federal programs. The state should continue to step up where federal policies fall short and lead nationally on immigrant healthcare issues.
- During this time of potential change to our health and immigration landscape, New York has the opportunity to build on its bold leadership for people under threat of losing their status, including DACA recipients and people with Temporary Protected Status, and expanding affordable health insurance to all New Yorkers.
- Access to high-quality, affordable care leads to better health outcomes for New Yorkers.
- Expanding coverage makes New York's health care providers more financially sound by reducing the burden of unreimbursed care for uninsured patients.

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