



# Health Care For All New York

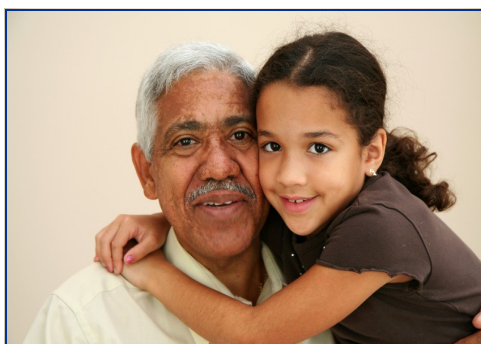
*Building Health Reform That's Right for New York*

## Who we are:

Health Care For All New York (HCFANY) is a statewide coalition of over 120 organizations dedicated to winning quality, affordable health coverage for all New Yorkers.

## HCFANY's Mission:

- To convene and educate advocates, policymakers, and the public about State and federal health reform measures;
- Provide easily accessible public information and education about health reform;
- Work with and provide input to policymakers on state health reform issues and federal health reform implementation issues; and
- Ensure that the health policy conversation in New York reflects real consumer concerns, such as access, affordability, quality, security, accountability & transparency, and equity.



**HCFANY works to achieve access to quality, affordable health care for ALL New Yorkers.**

## Our Federal Health Reform Agenda:

With the passage of the federal health reform law, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), much of the work of implementing it shifts to the States. How the law is implemented in New York will greatly affect how consumers are impacted, and how beneficial the changes will be.

With this in mind, HCFANY's basic state implementation agenda will be to:

- Respond to federal regulations on the components of the new health reform law and consumer protections;
- Provide input on different aspects of the ACA, particularly the design and implementation of an active state-based Insurance Exchange;
- Defend New York's strong public insurance and safety net programs against damaging cost-cutting measures;
- Educate the public and policymakers on the ACA in order to strengthen grassroots support and understanding of the law;
- Ensure that implementation of the ACA in New York meets the needs of immigrants, women, people with disabilities, and people of color;
- Work to ensure that comprehensive, quality affordable insurance coverage is available to all New Yorkers.

## The Affordable Care Act

**On March 23, 2010, federal health reform law, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), went into effect.**

**This historic legislation will help 32 million Americans (including more than 2 million New Yorkers) get health coverage, holds insurance companies newly accountable, and will make health care more secure, and more affordable for everyone.**

**Important ACA provisions started in 2010. For example:**

- **Young adults can now keep their parents' insurance until age 26.**
- **Seniors who hit the Medicare "donut hole" got a \$250 rebate in 2010, and are set to get a 50% discount on brand name drugs and a 7% discount on generics in 2011.**
- **Uninsured people with pre-existing conditions can now get coverage under the NY Bridge Plan.**
- **Small businesses are newly able to offer health coverage now that tax credits are available to help them pay for it.**
- **A new statewide consumer assistance program - Community Health Advocates - has been set up to help people get and use health coverage.**

**For more information on the ACA, go to [www.hcfany.org](http://www.hcfany.org)**

# Health Care For All New York

## Leading, Partnering, and Convening

HCFANY organizes around a set of “10 Standards for Quality, Affordable Health Care” which all member organizations commit to and promote in the health reform arena. These standards are used as basic guidelines for HCFANY to weigh-in with on policy issues and also to organize and mobilize around.

By organizing around these “10 Standards,” HCFANY has been able to attract a dynamic and diverse membership.

Each year, HCFANY members come together to designate a legislative agenda based on priority issues for the year.

HCFANY worked hard to ensure that the Affordable Care Act was a law that benefitted New Yorkers. Now we are working hard to make sure that it is not only implemented in New York, but that it is implemented in the best possible way.

In addition, we will continue to advocate and educate on important health

reform issues and policies that affect New Yorkers around the state. Together we can win quality, affordable health care for all!

**To join HCFANY, see a list of HCFANY’s member organizations, read the full version of HCFANY’s “10 Standards,” or read our legislative agenda for this year, visit us on the web at:**

[www.hcfany.org](http://www.hcfany.org)

## Meeting Our Policy Goals

Over the last few years, HCFANY is proud to have achieved several goals on our policy agenda. Our hard work on these issues helped to secure affordable health coverage for New Yorkers during extremely difficult economic times. These include:

- **Restoring prior approval to the State Dept of Insurance:** In the past, insurance companies could simply file a price increase and use it. This law gave the State Department of Insurance (now the Department of Financial Services) the ability to regulate health insurance rate increases *before* they go into effect so that New Yorkers will no longer be subject to unjustified insurance rate increases. HCFANY also pushed to have health insurer rate filing information made public, which was achieved in November 2011.
- **Expanding COBRA insurance coverage to 36 months for workers who were laid off or who had their hours reduced:** This measure lets workers keep access to health insurance coverage under their employer’s plan, at full-price, for an extended period of time.
- **Allowing young adults (age 18-29) to stay on their parents’ insurance plans:** It is getting harder and harder for young adults to get affordable, comprehensive health care. The federal health reform law lets young people to stay on their parent’s health plan, at the family rate, up to age 26. In New York, young adults can now also keep the same plan up to age 29, by paying a higher COBRA-like premium.
- **Improved the Family Health Plus Employer Buy-In Program:** In 2007, the State opened up the Family Health Plus program to allow small business employers and unions to buy-in to it as a way to provide health insurance to employees. However, high costs prevented anyone from signing up. Changes made to this program now make it more affordable for employers.
- **Achieving 10% accountability in New York State’s Charity Care Pool:** Each year, New York’s hospitals receive more than \$1 billion to help treat individuals without health insurance. But no legitimate accounting mechanism has ever been adopted to tie these taxpayer dollars to actual patients served. However, HCFANY has been working to reverse this problem and in 2008 the Legislature enacted a measure that ensures that 10% of these funds are directly tied to real patient care.

**Be part of the solution! Join Health Care for All New York by going to:**

[www.hcfany.org](http://www.hcfany.org)