

(SCHIP) to implement a program that provides health insurance coverage for uninsured low-income children. Many States have also expanded Medicaid coverage to uninsured children and adults, using existing options, such as section 1115 waiver authority, as well as increased flexibility under welfare reform to cover working parents. Eight States have used the administration's new Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability (HIFA) initiative, a section 1115 demonstration approach announced in August 2001 that emphasizes coverage expansions. Some States are working towards enhancing coordination of publicly-funded health programs, such as health departments and community health centers. States have also undertaken activities that seek to expand insurance coverage through mechanisms other than Federally-financed programs (e.g., high risk pools and insurance market changes).

The private sector has expressed an interest in supporting States' efforts to expand coverage for the uninsured. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has implemented the State Coverage Initiatives (SCI), a major technical assistance endeavor that will build on the successes and lessons learned in its earlier States Initiatives in Health Care Reform. The program seeks to improve the practical capacity of State governments in their quest to decrease the number of uninsured Americans and has an emphasis on policy development and technical assistance. The SCI Program provides resources for technical assistance that States can use to analyze data, diagnose problems, identify solutions, and develop new strategies and policies. It offers small policy planning grants and for a few States, larger scale demonstration grants.

In March 2003, a group of health foundations and national organizations, including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The California Endowment, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, conducted an educational and advertising campaign entitled *Cover the Uninsured Week* in an effort to sensitize the public and opinion leaders to the plight of the more than 41 million Americans who lack health insurance. The unprecedented series of national and local activities was designed to raise public awareness of the plight of more than 41 million uninsured Americans; demonstrate broad support for action on the issue; generate significant media attention to the issue, both nationally and in key communities across the country; encourage other national organizations to join The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and

18 partner organizations in an effort to increase attention to the issue; and create a single rallying point for groups and individuals working to extend health care coverage to the uninsured.

At the Federal level, the HHS is committed to assisting States as they examine their options for expanding health insurance benefits. By providing State planning grants, the HRSA SPG Program intends to encourage States to provide access to affordable health insurance coverage for all its citizens. Each grantee State will receive resources for necessary planning as well as assistance in researching and identifying policy options. Together, the results of each State's analysis of its uninsured population and its proposals for providing these individuals with access to health insurance coverage will provide additional data about the characteristics of the uninsured generally and present models for other States seeking to provide such comprehensive coverage.

SPG shares some of the same goals as and focus of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's State Coverage Initiatives and the Health Policy Studies Division of the National Governors' Association Center for Best Practices. Thus, whenever possible, SPG will coordinate its efforts with activities of these programs to share information about insurance trends, best practices, data and analyses, and technical assistance.

State Planning Grants for States Which Have Previously Received SPG Grant Funds

Program Purpose

The purpose of supplemental SPG grants for States which have previously received SPG grant funds is to assist such States in continuing their data gathering, analysis and planning processes. The supplemental grant will allow States to enhance, refine, and update the work of their initial SPG award to plan to provide all uninsured persons with health coverage. Not only will the grantee State benefit from further analyses, but by submitting a summary of these analyses and proposed plan at the end of the supplemental grant period in an addendum report to the Department, other States may learn about successful or innovative ways to provide access to coverage. In addition, HHS will have the opportunity to review these reports and gain insight into effective methods of supporting such endeavors.

Program Goal

The overarching SPG goal is to encourage States to provide access to

health insurance coverage to all uninsured citizens by providing the resources needed to develop successful plans and to provide a number of data collection and planning strategies, along with viable insurance expansion options to consider. The immediate goal of SPG for those States which have previously received SPG grant funds is to assist such States in continuing their data gathering, analysis and planning processes for programs that provide health insurance coverage to all uninsured citizens in the State through expanded State, Federal, and private partnerships.

Program Description

The approximately \$15 million in available funding for all SPG grant activities has been appropriated under the FY 2003 Labor-HHS Appropriations Act. The HRSA, Office of Special Programs, SPG Program, will oversee the program. The program will provide supplemental grants to States which have previously received SPG grant funds, whose size will vary, with an average grant award of approximately \$150,000 for the 31 States and 1 Territory which have previously received SPG grant funds. The total amount of funds set aside for supplemental grants is approximately \$4.0 million.

During FY 2003, SPG will support 1-year supplemental planning grants to States which have previously received SPG grant funds to (1) as applicable, further collect and analyze data that describe the characteristics of their uninsured and assist in the design of approaches to provide access to affordable coverage, (2) enhance, refine, and/or update the design of a program that would provide all uninsured with access to insurance benefits similar in care to State employee coverage, Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan, Medicaid or other similar quality benchmarks, through a State, Federal, and private partnership, (3) prepare an addendum report to the Department describing the findings of the new activities and how they relate to previously conducted activities, and (4) within 30 days after the end of the grant period, provide an addendum report to the Department describing any changes to original proposals for an expanded State, Federal, and private partnership to cover all of their uninsured.

The successful State applicant for supplemental SPG grant funds will demonstrate a continued commitment to reducing its uninsured population; will demonstrate a continued commitment by its Executive Branch to studying the possibilities for providing health