

# Healthy Wisconsin

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Proposal #4: Medicaid Expansion for Poor,  
Uninsured and Unemployed Individuals

November 9, 2006



# Current Medicaid Coverage

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- ❑ Medicaid is a state and federally funded program that pays for medical services for low-income individuals.
- ❑ Medicaid primarily covers low-income families, seniors and people with disabilities.
- ❑ Medicaid generally does not cover non-elderly individuals who do not have custody of minor children and who do not meet federal disability standards.
- ❑ Some states have been able to obtain federal approval for Medicaid expansions to cover poor individuals without children.

# Funding

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- Currently, there are some state, county and private programs that provide a health care safety net to poor individuals who are uninsured.
- With a federally-approved Medicaid expansion, these expenditures and uncompensated costs could be leveraged to match federal funds.



# Benefits

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- The benefit design would be more limited than the current Medicaid package but must be carefully designed to incorporate the health care currently provided by the safety net programs.
- There should be an emphasis on appropriate primary and preventive care and providing care in the most appropriate settings.



# Strengths

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- Leverages federal funding for uncompensated health care and/or expenses currently paid with state and county funds.
- Allows care to be better managed, preventing unnecessary and expensive emergency care.



# Weaknesses

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- The federal approval process may be long and involved, delaying implementation.
- Medicaid expansion is limited.