



State Health Reform Initiatives

Alliance for Health Care Reform
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State Coverage Initiatives

State Reforms – Raising Hopes

- Bi-partisan compromise is possible
- Leadership, opportunity and readiness are critical ingredients
- States motivated to take on health reforms
- States are trying a variety of different approaches



Trends in State Coverage Initiatives

1. Comprehensive state reforms take time because they build off prior efforts and funding mechanisms.
2. Reforms attempt to stem the erosion of employer sponsored insurance.
3. Reforms often expect shared financial responsibility. Some are beginning to recognize the need for mandatory participation.



Trends in State Coverage Initiatives

4. Expansions in coverage often rely on private insurers to deliver services.
5. Many state reforms address cost and quality in addition to health insurance coverage.
6. Voluntary purchasing pools, as a standalone strategy, are not likely to be sufficient to expand coverage.



Looking Forward

- Reforms take time, need to evaluate over the long-run
- Not all states will be able to implement comprehensive reforms because of significant variation across states
 - Number of uninsured
 - Resources to address problem



Federal Opportunities to Encourage State Innovation

- States will test new ideas both politically and practically
- May serve as models for other states and federal reforms
- Sustainable funding is essential for states to implement reforms
- Need to be prepared to enact and fund strategies that build on successful state demonstrations

