

**STATE COVERAGE INITIATIVES: What's Next?**  
**Selected Resources on State-Level Coverage Expansion**  
**Compiled by the Alliance for Health Reform**  
 May 30, 2007

**Arkansas**

<p>“Questions and Answers About ARHealthNet” ARHealthNet</p>		<p><a href="http://www.arhealthnet.com/library/pdf/ARHealthNet_Brochure.pdf">http://www.arhealthnet.com/library/pdf/ARHealthNet_Brochure.pdf</a></p>
<p>“Healthcare Advocates Unimpressed by Arkansas Initiative” Author, Erin Cassin <i>The NewStandard</i> March 31, 2006</p>	<p>Explains Arkansas’ Safety Net Benefit Program (private/public partnership).</p>	<p><a href="http://newstandardnews.net/content/index.cfm/items/3015/printmode/true">http://newstandardnews.net/content/index.cfm/items/3015/printmode/true</a></p>

**California**

<p>“Democrats forge ahead with health care bills” Author, Jordan Rau <i>Los Angeles Times</i> April 23, 2007</p>	<p>While Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger makes little political headway on his proposed health care overhaul, Democratic legislative leaders are forging ahead with their own approach, one that would insure millions of Californians but would not provide the universal coverage the governor seeks...</p>	<p><a href="http://www.insidebayarea.com/search/ci_5731191">http://www.insidebayarea.com/search/ci_5731191</a></p>
<p>“California Democrats Propose Employer Health Insurance Contribution Mandate” <i>KaiserNetwork.org, State Watch</i> May 17, 2007</p>	<p>Democrats in the California Senate and Assembly on Tuesday proposed legislation that would require employers to spend the equivalent of at least 7.5% of their payrolls on health coverage for workers...</p>	<p><a href="http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_report/s/rep_index.cfm?hint=3&amp;DR_ID=44980">http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_report/s/rep_index.cfm?hint=3&amp;DR_ID=44980</a></p>

## Colorado

<p>“Connecting Care &amp; Health for Colorado: A Proposal to Expand State Coverage by the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative” <i>A collaborative effort between Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, Community Catalyst, and Families USA</i> April 2007</p>	<p>Presents a proposal for universal health coverage for all Coloradans in thorough detail.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/cc_hi-reform-proposal.pdf">http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/cc_hi-reform-proposal.pdf</a></p>
<p>“Ritter Signs Package of Health-Care Bills” (AP) <i>The Denver Post</i> May 15, 2007</p>	<p>Describes the four new laws that will help to expand coverage for children with developmental disabilities and young adults in foster care. A bill was also passed that will aim to eliminate the health disparities that exist in the state due to race, ethnicity, and rural locations.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_5902173">http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_5902173</a></p>

## Florida

<p>“Florida Health Insurance Group FreeHealth Has Plan for Universal Coverage” <i>Press Release</i> May 17, 2007</p>	<p>Florida's health insurance advocacy group, FreeHealth, pushes for low cost coverage for every resident and suggests a few pennies can pay for all.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.prweb.com/releases/2007/5/prweb526848.htm">http://www.prweb.com/releases/2007/5/prweb526848.htm</a></p>
<p>“House: Illegal immigrant children should be eligible for KidCare” Author, David Royse <i>The Florida Times</i> April 25, 2007</p>	<p>A bill to provide insurance to undocumented immigrants spurred heavy debate on the Florida House floor. Surprisingly, the House agreed to open the door for coverage to illegal immigrant children.</p>	<p><a href="http://cgi.jacksonville.com/cgi-bin/printit_ap.cgi?story=ZZNOSTORYZZ">http://cgi.jacksonville.com/cgi-bin/printit_ap.cgi?story=ZZNOSTORYZZ</a></p>

## Georgia

<p>“Georgia State Senator Proposes Market-Based Reform” <i>The Heartland Institute</i> April 2007</p>	<p>Describes how the Insuring Georgia’s Families Act introduced in January, is different than other reforms because of its emphasis on the individual over the employer.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.heartland.org/Article.cfm?article=20748">http://www.heartland.org/Article.cfm?article=20748</a></p>
<p>“How Georgia Can Lower the State’s Uninsured by 500,000” Author, Ronald E. Bachman Center for Health Transformation February 9, 2007</p>	<p>Describes Gov. Perdue’s proposals to improve health care, and touches on how the increased enrollments in Health Savings Account-eligible plans have reduced the number of uninsured Georgians.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.healthtransformation.net/content/Files/2007%20Georgia%20Lowering%20the%20Uninsured%20CHT.pdf">http://www.healthtransformation.net/content/Files/2007%20Georgia%20Lowering%20the%20Uninsured%20CHT.pdf</a></p>

## Illinois

<p>“Illinois doctors group rejects plan” Author, Adam Jadhav <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i> May 4, 2007</p>	<p>The Illinois State Medical Society gave a thumbs-down to the Gov. Rod Blagojevich’s health care reform plan and the new statewide corporate tax that he would use to pay for it....</p>	<p><a href="http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/illinoisnews/story/59E8E2800821EFFF862572D10010E684?OpenDocument">http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/illinoisnews/story/59E8E2800821EFFF862572D10010E684?OpenDocument</a></p>
<p>“Advocates push for health plan in Illinois” Author, Ann McGlynn <i>Quad City Times</i> April 25, 2007</p>	<p>Health-care advocates push for the governor’s plan, which would provide government-sponsored coverage for the uninsured and underinsured while translating into \$1.7 billion in revenue...</p>	<p><a href="http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2007/04/25/news/local/doc462ed8682de4f508148516.txt">http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2007/04/25/news/local/doc462ed8682de4f508148516.txt</a></p>

## Iowa

<p>“How to expand health-insurance coverage in Iowa? Some choices” Author, Peter Damiano <i>The Des Moines Register</i> April 23, 2007</p>	<p>Policymakers in Iowa and across the nation are again talking about options for covering the 45 million Americans who have no health-insurance coverage...</p>	<p><a href="http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070423/OPINION01/704230301/1035/opinion&amp;template=printart">http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070423/OPINION01/704230301/1035/opinion&amp;template=printart</a></p>
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<p>“SCHIP reauthorization and Iowa”  Author, Emre Peker  <i>Medill Reports: Washington</i>  May 4, 2007</p>	<p>Iowa implemented a combined approach to utilize SCHIP funding...[but] is struggling with a budget shortage in its SCHIP programs for the third consecutive year.</p>	<p><a href="http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/washington/news.aspx?id=35753">http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/washington/news.aspx?id=35753</a></p>
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## Kansas

<p>“Bill will provide assistance to families and small businesses for short term”  <i>Kansas City Community News</i>  May 16, 2007</p>	<p>A plan to help the nearly 300,000 Kansans who don't have health insurance became law May 10...Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, flanked by legislative leaders from both parties, signed Senate Bill 11, which is aimed at providing assistance to Kansas families...</p>	<p><a href="http://www.kccommunitynews.com/articles/2007/05/16/osawatomie_graphic/news/n-og-news-health.care.legislation.txt">http://www.kccommunitynews.com/articles/2007/05/16/osawatomie_graphic/news/n-og-news-health.care.legislation.txt</a></p>
<p>“Health Initiatives Close to Passage” (AP)  <i>LJWorld</i>  April 26, 2007</p>	<p>... The measure falls short of answering Sebelius’ call in January for a plan to eventually bring universal health coverage to Kansas. But supporters believe it will set up a debate over more sweeping proposals...</p>	<p><a href="http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2007/apr/26/health_initiatives_close_passage/?state_regional">http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2007/apr/26/health_initiatives_close_passage/?state_regional</a></p>

## Kentucky

<p>“KYHealth Choices Medicaid Reform: Key Program Changes and Questions”  <i>Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured</i>  July 2006</p>	<p>In May of 2006, Kentucky obtained a state plan amendment to reform their Medicaid program, allowing the state to increase cost sharing and expand long-term care services...</p>	<p><a href="http://www.kff.org/medicaid/7530.cfm">http://www.kff.org/medicaid/7530.cfm</a></p>
<p>“Number of Uninsured Declines: Change Small, But Still Leads Nation”  Author, Barbara Issacs  <i>Lexington Herald-Leader</i>  May 18, 2007</p>	<p>It’s not a large change, but Kentucky has increased its percentage of employers offering health insurance and decreased its percentage of uninsured people...</p>	<p><a href="http://www.kentucky.com/news/state/story/73003.html">http://www.kentucky.com/news/state/story/73003.html</a></p>

## Louisiana

<p>“Louisiana Health Care Redesign Concept Paper” <i>Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals</i> October 20, 2006</p>	<p>Discusses the Louisiana Health Care Redesign Collaborative concept paper.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/publications/pubs-288/CMS%20Concept%20Paper%2010-20-06.pdf">http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/publications/pubs-288/CMS%20Concept%20Paper%2010-20-06.pdf</a></p>
<p>“Center for Budget and Policy Priorities says federal health care redesign model provides little help to Louisiana” <i>Stay Healthy Louisiana</i> April 17, 2007</p>	<p>Discusses the reaction of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services to the Louisiana Health Care Redesign Collaborative proposal.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.stayhealthyla.org/home/alerts/view/126">http://www.stayhealthyla.org/home/alerts/view/126</a></p>

## Maine

<p>“As Health Plan Falters, Maine Explores Change” <i>NY Times</i> April 30, 2007</p>	<p>Goal to cover 130,000 uninsured Maine residents by 2009 appears to be falling short. So far only 18,800 have signed up and many of them already had insurance....</p>	<p><a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/30/us/3Omaine.html?_r=1&amp;th&amp;emc=th&amp;oref=slogin">http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/30/us/3Omaine.html?_r=1&amp;th&amp;emc=th&amp;oref=slogin</a></p>
<p>“Health Care for All? Not Quite” <i>BusinessWeek</i> April 16, 2007</p>	<p>Maine’s two year old Dirigo system is providing other states with a blueprint and useful lessons....</p>	<p><a href="http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/07_16/b4030075.htm">http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/07_16/b4030075.htm</a>.</p>

## Massachusetts

<p>“Progress and Perils” Author, Alice Dembner <i>The Boston Globe</i> April 22, 2007</p>	<p>Massachusetts has made a strong start toward ensuring that all state residents have health insurance, but it faces major obstacles as it seeks to achieve the full promise of landmark legislation signed into law a year ago ....</p>	<p><a href="http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/04/22/progress_and_perils?mode=PF">http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/04/22/progress_and_perils?mode=PF</a></p>
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<p>“Affordability Standards Recommended to Connector Board”  <i>Press Release</i>  <i>Commonwealth of Massachusetts</i>  April 11, 2007</p>	<p>The staff of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority has recommended affordability standards to its board of directors that will result in health insurance coverage for 99 percent of the state’s adult population under Massachusetts’ historic health care reform law...</p>	<p><a href="http://www.mahealthconnector.org/portal/site/connector/menuitem.4ba4b485e26865f535734db47e6468a0c/?fiShown=default">http://www.mahealthconnector.org/portal/site/connector/menuitem.4ba4b485e26865f535734db47e6468a0c/?fiShown=default</a></p>
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## Minnesota

<p>“Healthy Connections: Health Care Reform to Lower Costs, Improve Quality, and Increase Access to Coverage”  <i>Press Release, Office of the Governor, Tim Pawlenty</i>  January 11, 2007</p>	<p>Describes how Gov. Tim Pawlenty’s “Healthy Connections” proposal will expand coverage by updating MinnesotaCare, increasing access for kids, and helping small employers provide more affordable health insurance options to their employees.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.governor.state.mn.us/mediacenter/pressreleases/PROD007915.html">http://www.governor.state.mn.us/mediacenter/pressreleases/PROD007915.html</a></p>
<p>“Governor Outlines Health Reform Plan.”  <i>Minnesota Medical Association</i>  January 12, 2007</p>	<p>Explains Governor Pawlenty’s plan of achieving universal coverage by expanding the eligibility requirements for MinnesotaCare and creating the Minnesota Health Insurance Exchange.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.mmaonline.net/News/fullstory.cfm?recNum=3822">http://www.mmaonline.net/News/fullstory.cfm?recNum=3822</a></p>

## Montana

<p>“Bill would create insurance pool”  Author, Joe Menden  <i>Independent Record</i>  March 13, 2007</p>	<p>Discusses bill proposed by state Rep. Gary MacLaren to create an insurance pool paid for by employer contributions and run by the state, with state subsidies for those who don’t have access to employer-sponsored plans.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.helenair.com/articles/2007/03/19/health/c01031307_02.prt">http://www.helenair.com/articles/2007/03/19/health/c01031307_02.prt</a></p>
<p>“Senate votes to expand CHIP; outcome unclear”  Author, Mike Dennison  <i>Helena Independent Record</i>  April 14, 2007</p>	<p>The state Senate on April 12 voted to expand the Children’s Health Insurance Plan in Montana, as supporters said there is enough money to cover thousands more children from low- and moderate-income working families...</p>	<p><a href="http://www.helenair.com/articles/2007/04/13/legislative/budgets_today/28_02.txt">http://www.helenair.com/articles/2007/04/13/legislative/budgets_today/28_02.txt</a></p>

## New Mexico

<p>“Group Gets New Look at State’s Uninsured”          Author, Diana Del Mauro  <i>The New Mexican</i>          April 27, 2007</p>	<p>Mathematica Policy Research presents a “startling snapshot” of New Mexico’s uninsured problem. Report on three potential plans to help the uninsured due by June 21.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.freewmexican.com/story_print.php?storyid=60840">http://www.freewmexican.com/story_print.php?storyid=60840</a></p>
<p>“State panel to study universal health care”          Author, Diana Heil  <i>The New Mexican</i>          July 21, 2006</p>	<p>Discusses Governor Bill Richardson’s proposal to expand the state’s Medicaid program in order to chip away at the number of uninsured while the state looks into universal coverage solutions.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.freewmexican.com/story_print.php?storyid=46755">http://www.freewmexican.com/story_print.php?storyid=46755</a></p>
<p>“Bill Richardson’s Immodest Medicaid Proposal”          Author, Paul J. Gessing  <i>NRO Financial</i>          August 15, 2006</p>	<p>Outlines Governor Richardson’s proposal and offers an opinion on what is wrong with the plan.</p>	<p><a href="http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YTBkODdmYzFiMGYzZWU4ZjA0Nzc3MmYwMGQ5MDY3NWY">http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YTBkODdmYzFiMGYzZWU4ZjA0Nzc3MmYwMGQ5MDY3NWY</a></p>

## Oklahoma

<p>“Premium Assistance Program Opens Door to Individuals”  <i>News release, Oklahoma Health Care Authority</i>          January 9, 2007</p>	<p>Explains who is eligible for Oklahoma’s O-EPIC Premium Assistance Individual Plan.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.ohca.state.ok.us/about.aspx?id=2759">http://www.ohca.state.ok.us/about.aspx?id=2759</a></p>
<p>“Profiles in Coverage: Oklahoma employer/employee partnership for insurance coverage (O-EPIC) program.”  <i>State Coverage Initiatives</i></p>	<p>Explains Oklahoma’s employer/employee plan (implemented Sept. 2005 – Jan. 2007).</p>	<p><a href="http://www.sttecoverage.net/oklahomaprofile.htm">http://www.sttecoverage.net/oklahomaprofile.htm</a></p>

## Pennsylvania

<p>“Gov. Rendell aims to make health care affordable” <i>AP</i> March 30, 2007.</p>	<p>For many Pennsylvanians, the path to medical care may soon be less likely to lead to a doctor. In a far-reaching attempt at the state level to make health care more accessible and affordable to everyone, Gov. Ed Rendell is seeking to lower barriers in Pennsylvania laws and regulations that prevent a wide range of nonphysician health professionals from providing basic types of care....</p>	<p><a href="http://cbs3.com/local/local_story_089135710.html">http://cbs3.com/local/local_story_089135710.html</a>.</p>
<p>“State fights to curb costs.” Chris Birk <i>The Daily &amp; Sunday Review</i> April 4, 2007</p>	<p>In Pennsylvania and elsewhere, proposals are in various stages of development, a push that will likely snowball while the national debate plays out.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.thedailyreview.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18166574&amp;BRD=2276&amp;PAG=461&amp;dept_id=465049&amp;rfi=6">http://www.thedailyreview.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18166574&amp;BRD=2276&amp;PAG=461&amp;dept_id=465049&amp;rfi=6</a></p>

## Rhode Island

<p>“Aiming to make health insurance more affordable” Author, Elizabeth Gudrais <i>The Providence Journal</i> March 30, 2007</p>	<p>After months of negotiations with insurers, the state health insurance commissioner, Christopher F. Koller, is poised to unveil his own small-business insurance plan April 3.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.projo.com/generalassembly/insurance30_03-30-07_B552HOU.3692bc9.html">http://www.projo.com/generalassembly/insurance30_03-30-07_B552HOU.3692bc9.html</a></p>
<p>“Bill seeks to insure all children.” Author, Jim Baron <i>Pawtucket Times</i> April 27, 2007</p>	<p>Senate Majority Leader Teresa Paiva Weed pushed for a bill in the Senate Finance Committee that would add more than 6,800 children to the subsidized Rite Care...</p>	<p><a href="http://www.pawtuckettimes.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18268852&amp;BRD=1713&amp;PAG=461&amp;dept_id=24491&amp;rfi=6">http://www.pawtuckettimes.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18268852&amp;BRD=1713&amp;PAG=461&amp;dept_id=24491&amp;rfi=6</a></p>

## Tennessee

<p>“State Strategies in Progress: Tennessee” <i>State Coverage Initiatives</i> February 2006</p>	<p>Describes Gov. Phil Bredesen’s initiatives to expand coverage through the Cover Kids Act, Cover Tennessee, and Access Tennessee.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.statecoverage.net/programs/inprogress/tennessee.html">http://www.statecoverage.net/programs/inprogress/tennessee.html</a></p>
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<p>“Gov. Bredesen Talks Health Insurance.”  <i>TriCities Times</i>  April 24, 2007</p>	<p>Discusses Gov. Bredesen’s initiative, Cover Tennessee, which provides insurance coverage for uninsured Tennesseans through three different insurance programs and one pharmacy assistance program.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.tricity.com/tristate/tri/news/education.apx.-content-articles-TRI-2007-04-24-0031.html">http://www.tricity.com/tristate/tri/news/education.apx.-content-articles-TRI-2007-04-24-0031.html</a></p>
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## Texas

<p>“Governor Perry Announces Health Care System Integrity Partnership”  <i>Press Release, Office of the Governor, Rick Perry</i>  October 9, 2006</p>	<p>Describes how creating a comprehensive electronic medical record system will reduce costs, allowing more small employers to offer coverage.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/press/pressreleases/PressRelease.2006-10-09.4033">http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/press/pressreleases/PressRelease.2006-10-09.4033</a></p>
<p>“Texas Governor Wants Medicaid Reforms, More Private Insurance.”  Author, Devon Herrik  <i>The Heartland Institute</i>  May 1, 2007</p>	<p>Explains how Gov. Perry’s plan, Healthier Texas, will improve health coverage access to the many uninsured citizens of the Lone Star State. Also discusses the Three-Share Program, a cost-sharing program which will help to spread out the financial burden.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.heartland.org/Article.cfm?artId=21140">http://www.heartland.org/Article.cfm?artId=21140</a></p>

## Utah

<p>“New Program Helps Uninsured”  Author, Lisa Clark  <i>Globe: Salt Lake City Community College</i>  December 4, 2006</p>	<p>Discusses Utah’s Premier Partnership for Health Insurance (UPP), which provides a subsidy to help qualified individuals buy into their employers’ health plans.</p>	<p><a href="http://media.www.slccglobelink.com/media/storage/paper442/news/2006/12/04/News/New-Program.Helps.Uninsured-2520157.shtml">http://media.www.slccglobelink.com/media/storage/paper442/news/2006/12/04/News/New-Program.Helps.Uninsured-2520157.shtml</a></p>
<p>“Uninsured kids cost the state more”  Author, Heather May  <i>The Salt Lake Tribune</i>  May 7, 2007</p>	<p>Discusses the problem of uninsured children in Utah and CHIP funding shortfalls.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.sltrib.com/portlet/article/html/fragments/print_article.jsp?articleId=5835280&amp;siteId=297">http://www.sltrib.com/portlet/article/html/fragments/print_article.jsp?articleId=5835280&amp;siteId=297</a></p>

## Vermont

<p>“Subject: Governor Signs Comprehensive Health Care Reform Legislation” <i>News release</i> <i>Office of Gov. Jim Douglas</i> May 25, 2006</p>	<p>Explains how the new law will help low-income Vermonters buy into Catamount Health or employer-sponsored health insurance.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.vermont.gov/tools/whatsnew2/index/php?topic=GovPressReleases&amp;id=1887&amp;v=Article">http://www.vermont.gov/tools/whatsnew2/index/php?topic=GovPressReleases&amp;id=1887&amp;v=Article</a></p>
<p>“Vermont Health Care Report: Five-Year Implementation Plan” <i>Vermont Agency of Administration</i> Dec. 1, 2006</p>	<p>A summary of proposed statutory changes to implement the universal access law, improve the quality of care and contain health care costs.</p>	<p><a href="http://hcr.vermont.gov/five_year_implementation_plan">http://hcr.vermont.gov/five_year_implementation_plan</a></p>
<p>“House bill would fine-tune new health care programs” <i>Rutland Herald</i> March 22, 2007</p>	<p>A committee of the Vermont House of Representatives advanced a bill designed to ensure the success of Catamount Health and Blueprint for Health ...</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070322/NEWS03/703220334/1041/LEGISLATURE">http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070322/NEWS03/703220334/1041/LEGISLATURE</a></p>

## West Virginia

<p>“Expansion Strategies: Medicaid, SCHIP, and Federal Authority” <i>State Coverage Initiatives: State Profile: West Virginia</i></p>	<p>Describes the proposed Medicaid reform and the West Virginia Small Business Plans, which helps small employers finance health coverage for their employees.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.statecoverage.net/profiles/westvirginia.htm">http://www.statecoverage.net/profiles/westvirginia.htm</a></p>
<p>“Radical New Changes in Medicaid for West Virginia” <i>Families USA</i> March 2007</p>	<p>Describes the history of Medicaid reform in the state, and explains WV’s new Medicaid reform program, “Mountain Rewards.”</p>	<p><a href="http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/state-medicaid-waivers/wv-state-plan-amendment.PDF">http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/state-medicaid-waivers/wv-state-plan-amendment.PDF</a></p>