

Grant Outcomes Report

Conference on Solving the Problem of New York State's Uninsured

The Problem:

Approximately 2.5 million New Yorkers lacked health insurance in 2007 according to estimates from the United Hospital Fund,¹ a New York City-based health policy center. According to the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, "Today's health care markets have been constrained in many ways, for better and for worse, by the decisions of previous regulators, governors, and legislators. Gridlock in Washington over health care reform has thrust states back into their time-honored role as laboratories for new social problems."

Grant Activities & Outcomes:

This is the first of two grants to the Manhattan Institute from the New York State Health Foundation's Coverage Consortium initiative. By convening two conferences, health policy staff at the Manhattan Institute fostered debate and discussion about the role of market-based strategies to increase access to coverage.

Paul Howard, Ph.D., directed the project.

In 2006, the Center for Medical Progress at the Manhattan Institute issued a white paper entitled "Rx NY" that analyzed reform proposals under debate in New York and offered market-driven recommendations for reform.

Rx NY served as the background paper for the two conferences convened by the Institute in 2007–2008. The conferences featured presenters and panelists from a range of political perspectives and professional backgrounds. Other policymakers, advocates, and providers attended and offered observations and opinions.

¹ "Health Insurance in New York, 2006–2007." New York, NY: United Hospital Fund, June 2009. Retrieved from <http://www.uhfny.org/assets/649>, September 1, 2010.

KEY INFORMATION:

GRANTEE

Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, Inc.

GRANT TITLE

Conference on Solving the Problem of New York State's Uninsured

DATES

September 1, 2007–October 3, 2008

GRANT AMOUNT

\$215,591

GRANT ID

2044096

FUNDING

NYSHealth Coverage Consortium Initiative

The first conference, entitled “New York’s Uninsured: Looking Back and Moving Forward,” was held in December 2007. It included two panels and a lunch speaker.

The panel entitled, “New York’s Uninsured: A History of Good Intentions and Unintended Consequences,” featured presentations by:

- ▶ James R. Tallon, Jr., United Hospital Fund (and Consortium grantee)
- ▶ Mark Scherzer, New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage (and Consortium Grantee)
- ▶ Tarren Bragdon, Empire Center for New York State Policy (Manhattan Institute)

The panel entitled, “Public Sector Experiments, Mandates, Medicaid, and Markets,” featured presentations by:

- ▶ Edmund F. Haislmaier, Heritage Foundation
- ▶ Jon Kingsdale, Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority
- ▶ Len Nichols, New America Foundation
- ▶ David Gratzner, Manhattan Institute

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, of the Peterson Institute for International Economics was the luncheon speaker.

The second conference, entitled, “Bridging the Gap: Affordable Health Care for New York’s Uninsured,” was held in April 2008. It also included two panels and a lunch speaker.

The panel entitled, “Revitalizing the Individual (Direct Pay) Insurance,” featured presentations by:

- ▶ David Hyman, University of Illinois
- ▶ Sherry Glied, Columbia University (and Consortium grantee)
- ▶ Gary Lauer, eHealthInsurance
- ▶ Sara Horowitz, Working Today

The panel entitled, “Innovative Services in Health Care Markets,” featured presentations by:

- ▶ Kevin Kelleher, Executive Healthcare services
- ▶ Web Golinkin, Convenient Care Association, RediClinic
- ▶ James Ward, Patient Advocates
- ▶ James Frogue, Center for Health Transformation

Regina E. Herzlinger from Harvard University was the luncheon speaker.

Rx NY and the conference discussions set the stage for the second Consortium grant.² Under that grant, the Institute analyzed focus group, survey, and microsimulation results to formulate health coverage options available to people not covered through their employer.

Publications:

Center for Medical Progress at the Manhattan Institute. *New York's Uninsured: Looking Back and Moving Forward*. New York: Manhattan Institute, December 11, 2007. Available at: <http://www.nyshealthfoundation.org/content/document/detail/988/>

Center for Medical Progress at the Manhattan Institute. *Bridging the Gap: Affordable Health Care for New York's Uninsured*. New York: Manhattan Institute, April 29, 2008. Available at: <http://www.nyshealthfoundation.org/userfiles/file/mics13.pdf>

² “Reforming New York State’s Individual Insurance Market.” Available at: <http://www.nyshealthfoundation.org/section/conference>