

The Michigan Minimum Benefit Plan

Background

For decades, countless groups have worked to advance the cause of health care reform in different ways with little success and Michigan needs affordable health care options more than ever.

The minimum benefit plan is a practical, portable, affordable plan and a market-based solution to reduce the number of working uninsured.*

Summary of the Michigan Minimum Benefit Plan

- 1. The State of Michigan will develop a minimum benefit plan with a \$150 OR LESS/employee and \$350 OR LESS/family monthly premium.**
 - The plan is not insurance, but will cover the most-often utilized preventive, urgent care and chronic care services; more expensive services, like hospitalization, can be covered with annual dollar limits.
 - The plan will be modeled after County Health Plans such as plans B & C from Kent Health Plan. Those who qualify may obtain subsidized support through County Health Plans.
 - A behavioral health component should be included in the minimum benefit.
 - These maximum premiums for the minimum benefit plan will likely increase over time with inflation.
- 2. Health plans doing business in Michigan will be required to make a minimum benefit plan(s) available to any employer with five or more employees upon request.**
 - Health plans have flexibility in design of the minimum benefit plan(s), so long as the plan includes state defined benefits and is priced at the state targets. This will allow for competition and a greater number of affordable choices for consumers.
 - Minimum benefit plans will be guaranteed issue.
 - With coverage limits, reinsurance will not be required for the minimum benefit plan.
- 3. Employers must offer their employees at least a minimum benefit plan.**
 - Job providers are not required to pay for the plan or precluded from offering a richer plans.
- 4. Individuals working 30 or more hours per week will be required to purchase at least a minimum benefit plan at their expense if their employer does not already offer other coverage.**
 - Individuals without coverage who decline a minimum plan will be assessed a \$100/month fee that will be paid into a new state-administered fund to cover the uninsured.
- 5. The minimum benefit plan will be an alternative to COBRA and offered to all employees leaving employment.**
 - The plan is portable and may be retained indefinitely in the plan service area.

Support the Michigan Minimum Benefit Plan

The Michigan Minimum Benefit Plan focuses on prevention, affordability, reducing the number of uninsured and individual responsibility. It will support small businesses, entrepreneurs* and by covering primary care services, helps decrease emergency room usage and hopefully, health care costs overall.

We need your support and leadership to implement the minimum benefit plan in Michigan.

Please call Andy Johnston with the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce at 616.771.0335 with questions or to sign on as a supporter of the Michigan Minimum Benefit Plan.

* According to the Michigan Department of Community Health, individuals in families headed by an employee at a private sector firm with less than 100 workers are almost twice as likely to be uninsured. Families in Michigan headed by a self-employed person are three times more likely to be uninsured.