

For Immediate Release
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Medicaid Secures State Coverage Initiative Grant

The Office of the Governor, Division of Medicaid will use a \$149,920 grant to examine the needs, coverage issues and current state of affairs of the uninsured population throughout the state.

The Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy, *State Coverage Initiatives* program, an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, awarded the grant to study health insurance coverage in an era of flexibility and innovation.

The goal of the project is to develop an action plan to address a state coverage initiative for uninsured families and children. The specific objectives of the project are to examine coverage expansion strategies; develop innovative approaches to extend coverage to uninsured families and children; develop strategies to overcome obstacles to the design, implementation and sustainability of coverage expansion; and to host a policy-building forum to gain commitment and support for expansion of services to the uninsured. “Medicaid will work collaboratively with the State Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Finance and Administration and the Bower Foundation to accomplish these goals and objectives,” said Rica Lewis-Payton, Executive Director, Office of the Governor Division of Medicaid in announcing the grant.