

Health Council of South Florida 2008 State Legislative Agenda

The Health Council of South Florida (Council) is one of eleven local health councils created by §408.033, F.S. to coordinate health services planning across the state. Our strategic focus is on HIV/AIDS, access to care and health promotion with an emphasis on Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties (District XI). The Health Council of South Florida's legislative priorities for action by Florida legislators during the 2008 Legislative Session are:

COUNCIL FOCUSED LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

▪ **Local Health Councils**

2007 Legislative Recap: Provided \$906K in grants and aids; \$82,274 per local health council.

FULLY FUND local health councils statewide to a minimum of \$1.65 million as provided in FY04-05.

Residents and health care providers in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties have derived substantial benefits from the Council serving as the preferred partner for strategic and community-based planning. State funding in FY06-07 provided operational support for the Health Council of South Florida to:

- Be the authoritative source of objective and reliable community health data (health profiles, community resource inventories) for informed health policy at the local, state and national levels.
- Produce a first ever, best in class Miami-Dade County Community Health Report Card by assessing trends, setting benchmarks and pinpointing 10 focus areas for targeted community health improvement by 2012
- Provide statewide administration of the AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP)
- Serve as the Designated Official Planning Agency for the Florida Transportation Disadvantaged program in Monroe County
- Lead collaborative community health initiatives to improve access to and delivery of healthcare services
- Convene expert panels to address emerging health issues such as pandemic influenza and other natural and manmade threats
- Conduct effective program and service delivery evaluations

▪ **AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP)**

2007 Legislative Recap: Provided \$1.3M increase to maintain current enrollment levels.

MAINTAIN level funding at \$11 million to sustain current enrollment levels.

AICP preserves the private health insurance coverage of low-income Floridians living with HIV/AIDS who cannot afford to pay their private health insurance premiums. The program's current overall cost-effectiveness or Gross Value Added Ratio is \$4.79 for every dollar invested. In 2006, AICP provided private health care services for 2,252 clients throughout Florida.

COMMUNITY FOCUSED LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

- **Medicaid Reform**
OPPOSE further expansion of the managed care demonstration program until demonstrated effective outcomes are met in the pilot counties of Broward, Duval, Baker, Clay and Nassau.
- **Access to Care for Uninsured & Underinsured**
OPPOSE decreases in general revenue appropriations to the Low Income Pool program's capped annual allocation of \$1 billion for each year of the program's 5 year demonstration period through 2010.
- **Certificate of Need**
OPPOSE further deregulation of the Certificate of Need program.
- **Childhood Obesity**
SUPPORT policies and strategies for preventing obesity, including reducing or eliminating trans fat options.
- **Antiviral Stockpile**
SEEK to become the 50th state in the country participating in the Federal Subsidy Program and **SECURE** 2.3 million treatment courses of antiviral medications for the state.
- **Rural Health**
SUPPORT rural health network initiatives and legislation to include participation in state health insurance groups, Monroe County rural health and local health council involvement.
- **Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged**
ENSURE proposed revisions to Chapter 427.011-427.017, F.S. maintain coordinated planning of transportation services for the disadvantaged
- **Health Professionals Shortages (including Nursing and Allied Health)**
PROVIDE funding to community colleges and universities to address current and projected physician, nursing and allied health workforce needs, especially among minority dense geographic areas.
INTRODUCE affordable housing legislation for public service health professionals.
INCREASE funding for nursing schools and **EXPAND** nursing faculty training opportunities. Nationally, more than 41,000 qualified nursing school applicants were turned away in 2005 due to nursing schools operating at maximum capacity.

Health Council of South Florida, Inc.

Our mission is to engage in community-based planning that improves health and promotes wellness in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.