

Show Me Series: Report 1

Innovative State Programs to Cover the Uninsured: Lessons for Missouri

Cover the Uninsured Week (March 10 through March 16, 2003) worked to raise public awareness concerning the issue of the uninsured in the nation and in Missouri. This week-long series of events generated support and enthusiasm from individuals and organizations representing the health care, social service, political, business, labor, academic and faith communities. To further inform the discussion of the issues involved in dealing with the problem, the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) policy group has undertaken this study of state approaches to reducing the number of uninsured individuals.

Specifically, this MFH paper explores the programs and policies that other states have adopted in order to reduce the number of uninsured individuals. The discussion includes common elements that contribute to successful coverage expansions in a given state. The study then looks at Missouri's own experience in addressing the issue of the uninsured. It concludes with a set of discussion points that provide a launching pad for an informed dialogue concerning potential solutions to the problem of the uninsured in Missouri.