

HEALTH CARE REFORM PRINCIPLES

What Does California's Health Care System Need Most?

There are 47 million Americans that do not currently have health insurance coverage, with over 6 million in California alone. Leaders and lawmakers are looking for ways to change and improve our healthcare system. As leaders come up with suggestions on how to change our health care system, the following are basic principles that a fair system should be based upon:

- ❖ **Universal Care** – All Californians should have the right to healthcare services.
- ❖ **Community-Based Care** – Patients deserve family-centered, community-based care.
- ❖ **Care Based on Culture and Language** – California has people of many different cultures. Its healthcare system should treat the specific needs of each of its communities, including offering services in languages other than English.
- ❖ **Fund Supportive Services** – Services such as childcare services, insurance enrollment, health education, interpretation/translation, supportive counseling services and transportation should be seen as important in providing care.
- ❖ **Affordable Coverage** - Families need health care coverage, but should not have to choose between paying for health care costs and other basic needs such as housing, food, clothing and education. Health coverage must be made affordable for working families.

- ❖ **Protect and Engage Health Care Patients**- Patients should be given good information, education, and support in order to help them make good health care decisions.

For more information on C.A. Health Care Reform: <http://www.calhealthreform.org/>

For more information on U.S. Health Care Reform: <http://www.health08.org/>