



Select Georgians for a Healthy Future Q&As

What is Georgians for a Healthy Future?

Georgians for a Healthy Future (GHF) is a health policy and advocacy organization charged with building and mobilizing a unified voice for health care consumers in Georgia. We proactively develop policy ideas to address our state's health care challenges and advocate on behalf of Georgia's health care consumers to implement these policies. Our work is broadly organized around the following issues: coverage, access, affordability, quality, and health reform.

Who is Georgians for a Healthy Future?

The GHF Board of Directors includes representatives from the most respected policy and advocacy groups in Georgia. The Board's expertise and experience gives GHF a natural position as the leading voice and umbrella organization for a range of health policy and advocacy constituencies in Georgia. The impetus for forming GHF stemmed from the fact that while Georgia is home to many groups that do amazing work on behalf of specific populations or around a particular health condition, there was a need for a broader organization to address the health care issues that impact all of us. Our role is to fill that gap.

Where does Georgians for a Healthy Future get its funding?

Georgians for a Healthy Future is funded through foundation grants and individual contributions. Thanks to the generous support of the Healthcare Georgia Foundation and the Public Welfare Foundation, we are able to embark on this important work.

What health care challenges do we face in Georgia?

Despite extensive evidence documenting the important role that health insurance plays in obtaining necessary care, 1.6 million Georgians – 18 percent of our state's population – are uninsured. This rate is three percentage points higher than the national average. Nearly 1 in 4 Georgians of working age are without health insurance, and many uninsured Georgians are ineligible for public programs such as Medicaid and PeachCare. Access to timely, quality, and affordable screenings, preventive services, and treatments can result in better outcomes and overall savings for consumers, employers, and the state government.

How will national health reform impact Georgia?

Right now, there is a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the national health care debate, making it impossible to gain a clear understanding of what reform could mean for Georgia. GHF seeks to cut through the clutter and provide sound, clear information to policymakers, regardless of the outcome of the debate.



Why is Georgians for a Healthy Future relevant right now?

Recently, access to health care in Georgia has been overshadowed by other legislative priorities. Now, more than ever, Georgians are in need of affordable and accessible health care, yet those needs are unmet. GHF intends not only to draw upon the many strong policy resources in Georgia, like Emory University and the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, but also to engage the public and engage in advocacy around the opportunity to significantly improve Georgia's health care system. GHF intends to make health policy accessible for the lawmakers who will forge Georgia's health care agenda, as well help enable the public to advocate for the best health outcomes for all Georgians.

How will Georgians for a Healthy Future Engage Georgia's Health Care Consumers?

The discussion surrounding national healthcare reform has made it clear that there is a dearth of clear, fact-based information about health care available to consumers. GHF will provide accessible, timely information and advocacy tools to consumers through a variety of channels, including our website and social networking presence. Additionally, we hope to serve as a resource to the media by providing credible and lucid policy analysis that can be presented to the public in a straightforward way.

How can I learn more about Georgians for a Healthy Future?

For more information on GHF, and about health care in Georgia, please visit www.HealtyFutureGA.org. Up-to-the-minute insight on health policy in Georgia can be found at our blog, www.HealthyDebateGA.org, by visiting our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/HealthyFutureGA, by following us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HealthyFutureGA, and by downloading our mobile application by texting GHF to 53000.