



Safety-Net Providers

What happened?

Governor Dayton and the legislature provided the Minnesota Department of Health \$2.25 million per year in the Health and Human Services budget for new investments that bolster Minnesota's safety net providers. New or expanded programs include funding to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), dental clinics and mental health centers that serve uninsured children, and hospitals that provide high-cost services to Emergency Medical Assistance enrollees.

Why is this helpful for Minnesotans?

Even with greater insurance coverage for Minnesotans and their families, there are still people who lack insurance and cannot afford adequate coverage. Safety net providers continue to provide high-quality care to these Minnesotans, regardless of their ability to pay. Often, safety-net clinics and hospitals treat and manage health problems early and allow people to avoid expensive care or a trip to the emergency room.

The additional investments to safety net providers will expand available funding for clinics and hospitals that treat uninsured and under-insured Minnesotans. Providers can use this funding to maintain facilities and enhance capacity to provide state-of-the-art care.



Background

There are shortages of dental and mental health providers across the state. The problem is especially serious in rural areas. There are also shortages of primary care providers in many areas of the state. This makes it hard for people with little or no insurance coverage to get care in a timely manner.

There are 18 FQHCs providing care in Minnesota. There are also more than 30 Community Mental Health Centers, dozens of community dental providers, and more than 100 hospitals serving the uninsured. Often, these providers simply absorb the cost of providing care to the uninsured and under-insured. The additional investments made by the Governor and Legislature will ensure that they can continue to provide quality care to these patients.

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DATE: 5/27/2015