#### Small Business Health Insurance Reform: VirginiaShare

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#### Agenda

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- Why should we care about the uninsured?
- VirginiaShare Overview
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#### Who are the uninsured?

- Nearly 70 percent of the uninsured live in households with at least one full-time worker
- The self-employed and those working in firms with fewer than 100 employees account for the majority of uninsured
- Nearly three-quarters of uninsured Virginians report they live in households where there is no offer of employersponsored health insurance
- Nineteen to 34 year olds have the highest rate of uninsurance among non-elderly adults—nearly 27 percent do not have health insurance
- Uninsured rates are significantly higher for those living in poverty compared to those with incomes above 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

#### Why Should We Care About the Uninsured?

- Uninsured people are:
  - O More likely to have unmet health care needs
  - CLess likely to have a usual source of care
  - CLess likely to go to the doctor
- Contributing factors are affordability and/or no access to insurance
- There are economic development issues.
  - Studies that indicate higher rates of absenteeism in the uninsured population as well as a loss of productivity

# Virginia Share Program Goals

- Provide affordable and accessible health insurance coverage to approximately 15,000 low-income, working uninsured Virginians
- Provide affordable health insurance coverage options to over 6,000 small businesses
- Leverage existing private health insurance market
  - OPublic-private partnership
  - Three-share financing
- Create a predictable and affordable access program for the Commonwealth

# **Target Population**

Virginians who are:

- OLow-Income (< 200% FPL or \$20,420)</p>
- OWorking at Least 30 Hours Per Week
- OWork in Small Businesses with 2-50 Employees
- Have not had health insurance in the last 6 months
- Small businesses with 2-50 employees
  Who have not offered coverage in the last 6 months

#### **Benefits**

- First dollar coverage up to \$50,000 each policy year
- Includes all state-mandated benefits
- Option to cover spouses
- Portable for individuals participating for at least 6 months
- "Creditable coverage" towards full-benefit health insurance policies
- Maternity coverage through Medicaid and FAMIS Moms program
- Children's coverage through FAMIS

# **Three-Share Financing**

- Low-income participants qualify for three-share financing:
  - Employee pays one-third of monthly premium
  - Employer pays one-third of monthly premium
  - Virginia pays one-third of premium up to set dollar amount (e.g. \$75)

	Earning <200% FPL	Earning >200% FPL
Individual	\$60	\$120
Employer	\$60	\$60
Commonwealth	\$60	\$0

### RiversideShare

- Privately funded program established to subsidize the cost of group insurance for low-income workers in the Commonwealth of Virginia
  - Funded by a two year commitment of \$500,000 each year, or a total of \$1,000,000 from the Riverside Health System Foundation
- Eligible employees and their spouses receive \$100 per month in subsidy to pay for their group health plan.
  - Based on one-third of the average cost of Anthem's HealthKeepers 25 HMO policy
- Began in September 2008

# **Eligible Employers**

Must be located in Riverside's service area

- cities of Gloucester, Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, Richmond, Tappahannock, West Point, Williamsburg and Yorktown; Counties of Essex, Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, King and Queen, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Richmond and Surry
- Must employ 2-50 employees during preceding calendar year that are eligible to enroll in Anthem's small business or community segment
- Must not have offered health insurance to any employees during six months prior
- Must offer an Anthem HMO Plan and meet underwriting guidelines (i.e. % participation)

# Eligible Employees

- Must work for an Eligible Employer
- Must be a Legal VA resident
- <= 200% FPL (household income)</p>
- Employee and/or spouse only; children directed to FAMIS
- If married or a dependent, the employee may not have coverage through their spouse or drop coverage to obtain funds through this program
- Must not be eligible for medical assistance benefits
- Must work at least 30 hours per week for qualified small employer

# Other Considerations

- While mandates are good for consumer protection, the group they are often intended to affect (large employers) are not affected because these employers are self-insured...meaning they are protected by ERISA
  - ERISA preempts all state laws
- Mandates typically affect small to medium sized employers
- 24 states have enacted mandate waiver laws
  - Statutes permit insurers to offer basic products, absent some or all state benefit and provider coverage mandates
- Providing "mandate-lite" or mandate free products that target small employers would be a way to help programs like VirginiaShare and RiversideShare
  - These products are not a solution for the uninsured; however, there types of products are one step toward making coverage more affordable for small businesses