

League of Women Voters of Colorado

Toolkit for the Affordable Care Act

Materials on the Affordable Care Act, its implementation in the states and benefits to individuals and small businesses are available from many sources. Additionally, there are knowledgeable individuals in Colorado who may be called upon to answer questions or make presentations to groups.

Monitor the LWVUS health care discussion list and request the LWVCO Health Care updates to discover more good resources.

- **Kaiser Family Foundation** - one of the best sources for nonpartisan information about health care reform. Website includes a great summary of the ACA, a comparison of the ACA and alternative legislation, and a detailed timeline for the ACA's implementation.
<http://www.kff.org/healthreform/8061.cfm>
<http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm>
<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/trackingpoll.cfm> latest health care tracking opinion polls
<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/> State Health Facts

Kaiser Health News – updates on health reform news. <http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/>

- **Commonwealth Fund** - valuable reporting on health care reform and the state of the health care in the United States. <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Health-Reform.aspx>
- **Congressional Budget Office** – the nonpartisan office which provides objective and timely analysis to aid the Congress in making budgetary and economic decisions. The CBO scores the cost of all legislation, calculates the cost of alternative health care proposals and projects the costs of Medicaid expansions among a number of other subject areas.
<http://www.cbo.gov/topics/health-care/affordable-care-act>
- **Health Care Reform in Colorado** - our state's health care reform website which includes the useful "Roadmap for Colorado", an implementation timeline.
<http://www.colorado.gov/healthreform>
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** - resources on the benefits of the law, implementation timeline, help with insurance with interactive and video features.
<http://www.healthcare.gov/>

Additional resources and access to interactive conference calls on working in your community. http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships/aca_act_and_community/index.html

Details on how the ACA has assisted Colorado specifically:

<http://www.healthcare.gov/law/resources/co.html>

- **Annenberg Public Policy Center** of the University of Pennsylvania- a nonpartisan, nonprofit “consumer advocate” for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics. They monitor the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players in the form of TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews and news releases with the goal of applying the best practices of both journalism and scholarship, and to increase public knowledge and understanding. Use their site to check out statements of candidates and politicians about the ACA. www.FactCheck.org
- **Center for Budget and Policy Priorities** - a more left leaning organization that addresses a number of areas with regard to the Affordable Care Act. <http://www.cbpp.org/research/?fa=topic&id=32>
- **Families USA** – offers many resources including “Designing the Essential Health Benefits for your State: An Advocates Guide" includes an overview of the requirements a state’s essential health benefits package will have to meet under the ACA. It outlines the process for defining these benefits using a benchmark plan and provides guidance on how to analyze your state’s benchmark plan options and highlights potential avenues for advocacy. <http://familiesusa2.org/assets/pdfs/Designing-Essential-Health-Benefits.pdf>
- **Heritage Foundation** - a right leaning source for information that opposes the Affordable Care Act. <http://www.heritage.org/issues/health-care>
- **Small Business Majority** - information on the impact of the Affordable Care Act on small business. <http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/policy/healthcare-policy.php>

COLORADO RESOURCES

- **Bell Policy Center** is committed to identifying and promoting policies that help individuals and families access opportunity and move toward self-sufficiency. Provides an archive for health care related articles. Based in Denver; speakers available statewide. (303) 297-0456 (866) 283-8051 <http://bellpolicy.org/content/straight-talk-health-care-reform-archive>
- **Colorado Consumer Health Initiative** provides regular and updated consumer information regarding health care reform information, legislative and regulatory information specific to Colorado. Sign up for news updates. Based in Denver; speakers available. (303) 839-1261 <http://www.cohealthinitiative.org/>
- **Colorado Center on Law and Policy** provides additional and topical information on health care reform in Colorado particularly targeted at lower income Coloradans. Based in Denver; speakers available. (303) 573-5669 http://www.cclponline.org/health_care

- **Colorado Health Benefits Exchange** - provides information about implementation in Colorado including news, events, board and advisory group meetings, and resource information. <http://www.getcoveredco.org>

VIDEOS

- **Kaiser Family Foundation** - on the ACA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-Ilc5xK2_E&feature=related
- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** – foundation whose mission is to help improve the health and health care of all Americans. They developed a series of videos on the Health Insurance Exchanges, Medicaid Expansion, Cost sharing and other features of the ACA. www.rwjf.org/goto/videovocab

Compiled for League Day, September 22, 2012, by Linda Mahan and Bob Semro