

# TEXAS LEFT ME OUT

## UNINSURED TEXANS IN THE “TEXAS COVERAGE GAP”: What You Can Do if There is No Health Insurance Coverage Help for You in Texas

The Affordable Care Act—called ACA or Obamacare—creates options and new ways to help make health insurance affordable for most Americans in 2014.

But here in Texas, some uninsured U.S. citizens<sup>1</sup> may be left **without** any new help in 2014:

U.S. citizen adults (under 65) with incomes below the poverty line (below \$958/month for one person or \$1,963/month for a family of 4 in 2013) may be left out (unless pregnant, disabled, or extremely poor and taking care of children). **The Affordable Care Act would have covered these adults, but the Texas state government chose to exclude these Texans.**

Unfortunately, these uninsured Texas adults cannot enroll in Medicaid or CHIP, and they cannot get help to reduce the cost of insurance in the new Health Insurance Marketplace.

### HOW TEXANS IN THE GAP GROUP CAN FIND HEALTH CARE SERVICES

- In larger Texas cities—Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Fort Worth, and San Antonio—there are programs run by the county that help uninsured Texans below poverty get health care. Call **211** to find out how to apply for help.
- **Texas has Community Health Centers** (also called FQHCs) in nearly 400 locations. These centers will provide low-cost care to the uninsured on a sliding scale, including immigrants without current legal papers. You can find the center nearest you at these websites – <http://www.tachc.org/find-healthcare-center> OR <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chpr/fqhcmain.shtm>.

There is not one perfect way to find out about where to get health care in your community if you do not have insurance, but here are two good ways:

- Your state Senator or Representative has staff who can help you find care. You can type in your address at this website to find your elected official’s phone number: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>
- In many Texas cities and counties, churches and other charities also have clinics that can help you. Call 211 to find out about the clinics in your area.

### GET INVOLVED TO MAKE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AVAILABLE TO YOU

You can help change the minds of state leaders who decided to leave some Texans out. Everyday Texans and our elected leaders need to understand what it really means for about a million uninsured U.S. citizen adults to be left out of affordable care in 2014.

Please go to **[www.TexasLeftMeOut.org](http://www.TexasLeftMeOut.org)** and sign up to get more information about how you can make a difference.

<sup>1</sup>Immigrants without current legal documents are still excluded from Medicaid and CHIP, and they do not qualify for the new ACA coverage help.