

The Premium Assistance Workgroup was authorized through the following language from Kansas Senate Bill 11 in April, 2007.

“This assistance plan would be intended to assist eligible low income Kansans with the purchase of private insurance that is actuarially equivalent to the Kansas state employee health plan. In the first 2 years of the program eligibility will be for families at and under 50 percent of the federal poverty level (annual income of approximately \$10,325 for a family of 4 in 2007). In year 3, eligibility will extend to families under 75 percent of the federal poverty level (annual income of approximately \$15,488 for a family of 4 in 2007). In year four, eligibility will extend to families with incomes up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level (annual income of approximately \$20,650 for a family of four in 2007).”

With the Governor’s support, the Health for all Kansans Steering Committee and the KHPA Board successfully advanced a premium assistance plan to the Kansas legislature during the 2007 legislative session, receiving authorization to plan and implement the program over the next four years. The implementation of a premium assistance plan fits into the long-term health reform plans in Kansas by using Federal and state Medicaid funds to purchase private insurance for low-income Kansas families. The Kansas premium assistance initiative builds upon the strong base of private insurance available in Kansas, and helps prepare the way for further reforms by enhancing competition and offering real choice to Medicaid beneficiaries.