

Community Considerations in the Current Climate

- Retain developed infrastructure; the program has required coordination and cooperation between community healthcare providers and government (county) and has become a model for the provision of quality and cost effective care. The components of the program should be maintained regardless of the funding sources.
- The links that have been established with other social services to assist with self sufficiency should continue and when ever possible be enhanced.
- If federal funding does become available efforts should be made to extend coverage to additional individuals and/or expand benefits to include dental, vision and additional mental health coverage.
- The oversight of a community advisory board should continue.
- If a 'Medicaid-like' plan is proposed to cover more individuals, the county should seek permission to administer the program using the established model.
- The county needs to continue to promote the good working relationships that have been established over the years with local healthcare providers. In these uncertain times it will be important for productive dialogue to continue so that the outcome is the best healthcare system possible for the citizens of the county.

Replication Considerations

- The program has shown the benefits of a community-based healthcare system requiring a strong over-sight component and support from local healthcare providers. Although other communities would need to tailor the program to local conditions, the underlying principles would be applicable in most locations.
- Discussion should occur with federal officials (Department of Health and Human Services) concerning the use of the local plan as a model in other areas. If this should happen, the possibility of the county furnishing the experts and expertise with remuneration could be discussed. Any remuneration could be used to enhance the services provided in the local program.