

How the Health Care Law reflects our Shared Values and Common Beliefs

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a speech to the Medical Committee for Human Rights, 1966

- For many organizations, serving our neighbors and helping those who are less fortunate is our critical mission. Many of us understand that “the least of these” must have access to basic needs, such as health care.
- The dignity of the individual calls us all to affirm a vision of society where people have the most accessible opportunity for health and wholeness.
- Some traditions refer to “peace” or “shalom” and “salam” when referring to that shared wholeness. In other words, creating and promoting a life that is full and whole. Like the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s *Beloved Community*, faith and community leaders want the best for their neighbors and their families.
- One way we can affirm that shared vision, as well as the inherent dignity of every individual, is by ensuring access to health care and preventive services that will enable more people to live longer and with better health.
- Through the health care law, millions of uninsured people can take steps towards health and wholeness because they are now able to access affordable care.
- The health care law moves our nation from a focus on “sick care,” or emergency care that is costly and treats illness, to a health care system that is life-affirming by focusing on prevention, well-being and access to care.
- Increasing access to care and preventive services is critical for promoting health and healing in our communities.
- This vision, however, cannot be realized without helping people who are uninsured become aware of the tools available to them to improve their health, including affordable insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace for themselves and their loved ones.
- The health care law is about people having access to care and services they need to maintain their health and well-being.
- It’s about easing the financial fears many individuals and families have about their lack of health care coverage.
- It’s about tending to the needs of our neighbors.
- Helping uninsured individuals and families get the health insurance coverage they need is at the heart of the mission of many faith and community leaders. Through this act of service and education, we express justice, fairness, and solidarity for our families, our communities and our civic life together.

