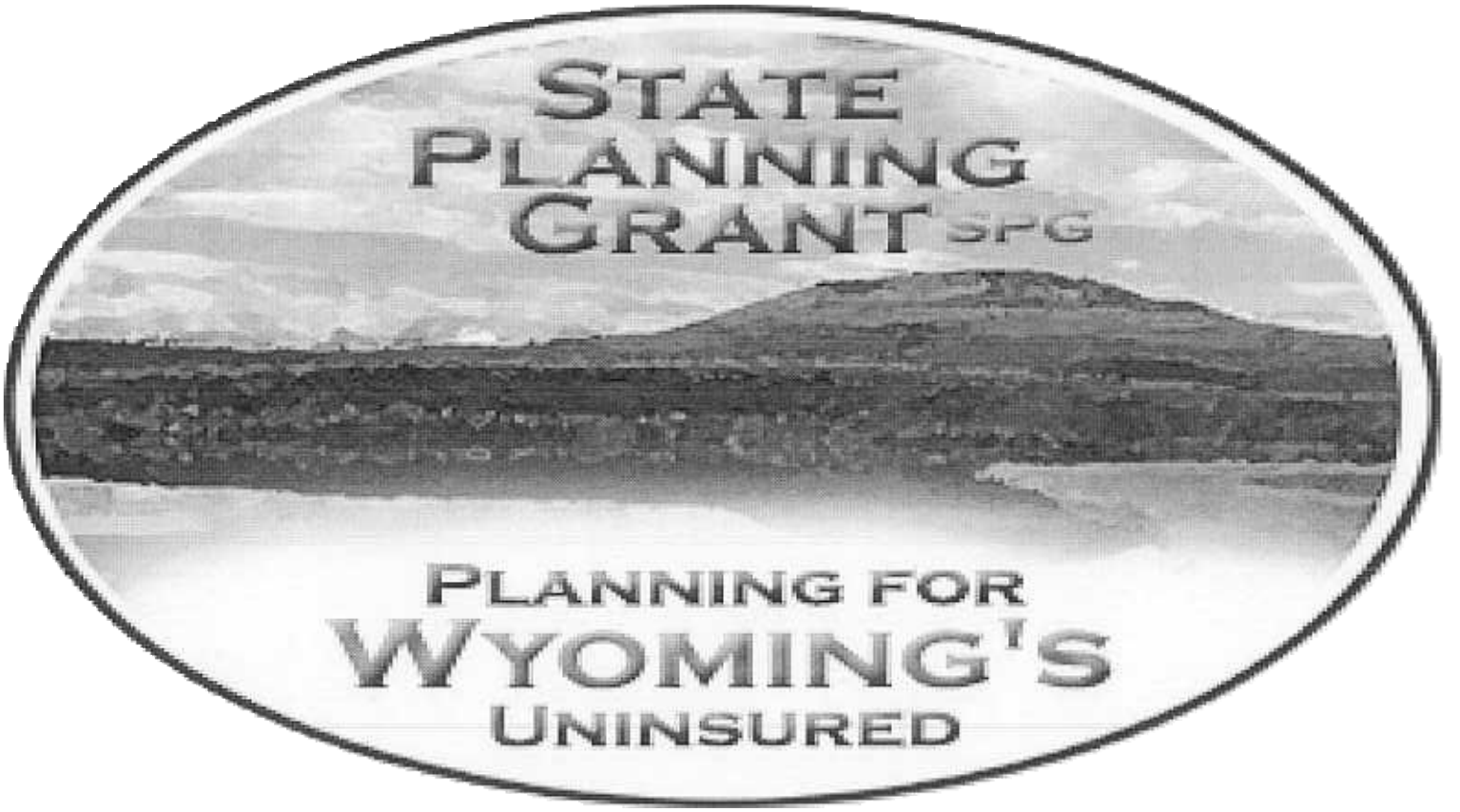
# Solutions proposed by survey respondents match options considered by SPG Task Force

Expansion of public programs
Buy-In to public programs
Increased reimbursement for public programs
Universal access
Better coordination among safety net providers
Expanding Community Health Centers
Purchasing Pools
Tax credits and subsidies
Mandated participation in employer coverage
Increasing personal responsibility for health, including MSAs
Educating the uninsured about available programs
Educating people about the true cost of healthcare

# State Strategies to Increase Access to Coverage



# Fully Fund Kid Care Chip

Maintain access for the 3,000 children currently covered by Kid Care CHIP and increase access for an additional 6,000 uninsured children by fully funding Kid Care CHIP. Because Kid Care CHIP is not an entitlement program, enrollment is limited to the amount of state funding appropriated by the Legislature each biennium, which is matched by federal funds. The Kid Care CHIP budget is established by estimating the number of children who will be enrolled incrementally over a period of time. If enrollment occurs at a faster pace than anticipated and/or if premium costs are higher than expected, it may be necessary to cap enrollment. If this occurs, additional funding would be needed to continue to provide access to coverage for all eligible children.

***The Kid Care CHIP program should continue to explore an option to provide premium assistance if a family were to elect to purchase employer sponsored insurance when it is available.***

# Modify Kid Care CHIP To Cover Parents

Provide access to coverage for 5,600 uninsured parents of Medicaid and SCHIP eligible children by offering a Kid Care CHIP style private insurance benefit package to eligible parents

The Department of Health would need to obtain a SCHIP Section 1115 Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability (HIFA) waiver to implement this option.

The Department would require Legislative authority to develop a HIFA Waiver to expand coverage to parents.

# Offer i ited Medicaid Benefit Package To Adults

Provide access to coverage for 6 000 ow ncome un nsured adu ts by offering a m ted Med caid benef t package wh ch emphas zes prevention and the use of condit on/treatment pa r

The Department of Hea th wou d need to obta n a Med ca d Sect on 1115 demonstrat on wa ver to mp ement th s opt on

# Establish a Wyoming Purchasing Cooperative

Design a Wyoming Purchasing Cooperative for the purchase of health insurance, which would include the ***creation of a system of health care accounts that could accept premium payments from multiple sources.***

This is an innovative proposal that will require additional study and a collaborative effort from inside and outside government to develop a model that is viable for Wyoming. The Task Force recommended that the Wyoming Healthcare Commission give immediate attention to developing this model and that supplemental SPG funds be used by the WHCC to contract for a study of this option to produce a report for the 2005 Legislature.

# Payment To Hospitals Catastrophic Care

Provide a one-time payment to Wyoming hospitals for one half the costs of outlier catastrophic care provided to uninsured patients during calendar year 2003 and conduct an actuarial study to determine the cost effectiveness of purchasing a state funded catastrophic insurance policy to cover all Wyoming citizens which might be funded by a catastrophic insurance tax.

# Create Programs To Increase Direct Care Access

Provide increased access to direct care services for the uninsured by increasing the capacity of the University of Wyoming Family Practice Residency programs to serve the uninsured by:

- ✓Changing the pay-back provisions for medical contracts and providing additional reimbursement to the residents
- ✓Conducting a feasibility study to select appropriate sites for one or more pilot projects to expand Family Practice Residency services to more rural areas of the state
- ✓Establishing a program that would enable the State to provide a three to one match on co-payments made by patients

# Help Communities Seeking Admission to Federal Programs

**Provide technical assistance to Wyoming communities to develop and submit applications to establish *community health centers* or other types of *federally designated clinics* that serve the uninsured. This technical assistance would be provided by a designation specialist and support staff in the Office of Rural Health who would work with communities to define their needs and to prepare applications for the federal government on their behalf.**

# SPG-generated Legislation

- **SF0034**

  **Hospital uncompensated catastrophic care**

- **SF0079**

  **WWAMI amendments**

- **SF0057**

  **Professional health education amendments**

# SPG-generated Studies

- **Medicaid expansion**
  - **Waiver options**
- **WYO CARE**
  - **Focus groups & an expanded study by the WHCC**
- **Uncompensated catastrophic care**

# SPG Conclusions

Strategies recommended by the SPG task force could increase coverage for thousands of uninsured Wyoming citizens, which is in the best interest of all.

***Developing options to spend health care dollars proactively to expand health insurance access to the uninsured will result in care being provided early when it is least expensive and most effective.***

The SPG Task Force recognizes that additional analyses and further refinement of the coverage strategies recommended is necessary. It will be important to build consensus for solutions that will work best for the people of Wyoming.

# SPG Conclusions

The first national *Cover the Uninsured Week* was held in March 2003 and a second is scheduled for May 2004 because the numbers of uninsured citizens continues to increase across the nation.

Individuals and organizations are expressing concern about this crisis nationally and in Wyoming. By May 2004, all Wyoming people should make an effort to learn more about the issue of the uninsured and should become involved in the process to find solutions.

# Marketing the Cause

- Presentations based on the findings of the SPG study are are being made to professional groups
- Cover the Uninsured Week activities are slated across the state
- A legislative interim committee study will be sought
- Meetings are being held with the leadership of the Department of Employment, Department of Family Services, and the Wyoming Department of Health
- The SPG web site is within the Wyoming Department of Health, http://wyominguninsured.state.wy.us.

## Join Us in Promoting *Cover the Uninsured Week*
## May 10-16, 2004

Rising healthcare costs continue to undermine the ability of individuals, businesses and state governments to purchase healthcare coverage. Reversing this disturbing trend, elevating this issue on national and local agendas, and creating an environment in which taking effective action becomes required are the goals of:

*Cover the Uninsured Week* 2004

**For more information, visit**
**www.covertheuninsured.org**

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