

GROUP # 1
EXPANDING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SUMMARY

The Deficit Reduction Act allows States to expand coverage for individuals with disabilities by:

- Expanding coverage to families with disabled children to purchase Medicaid coverage. Beginning January 1, 2007, States may choose to allow families with family income of up to 300% of the federal poverty level to buy Medicaid coverage for their disabled children.
- Creating new health coverage options for working individuals with disabilities. Through infrastructure grants the state may allow working individuals with disabilities to “buy-in” to Medicaid and receive access to personal assistance and other health and employment services.

SWOT ANALYSIS – TOP THREE SELECTED BY SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

Strengths

1. Advocacy and public support for children’s health
2. Large support from provider network
3. Research legislation in place

Weaknesses

1. Lack of political will to provide resources and funding
 2. Income limit too low
 3. Tied for third place
- Ease of access to program
Unknown number of potential eligibles

Opportunities

1. Right thing to do
2. Employees more willing to hire disabled
3. Allow individuals to work and keep dignity

Threats

1. Bureaucratic hurdles and administrative red tape
2. Inadequate revenue stream and tax structure
3. High projected cost couple with lack of political will

Bottom Line: This group recommends that Georgia implement this option