

## Health Care For All New York: Leadership agencies

**The American Cancer Society (ACS):** ACS is committed to achieving access to prevention, detection and treatment of cancer for all. In New York, ACS has helped to win state appropriations of more than \$25 million annually for cancer screening of uninsured and underinsured persons and a New York City appropriation of \$2.5 million for a colon-screening uninsured program that has helped to virtually eliminate racial disparities in colon screening in that city. For many years ACS has led a broad-based coalition of anti-smoking health and civic organizations, which was supported from 1997 to 2004, by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation SmokeLess States grants. Major accomplishments of this coalition since 1997 include: two significant cigarette excise tax increases, which funded health coverage expansions and comprehensive smoking restrictions, first in New York City, and then, statewide. For more information please see [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) or call 1-800-ACS-2345.

**The Community Services Society (CSS)** has been a leading advocate on public health coverage issues for decades. In the 1990s, CSS's pioneering work documenting the lack of adequate primary care facilities in the majority of poor communities led to the creation of the Primary Care Development Corporation and subsequent investments in primary care capacity throughout the city. As Medicaid Managed Care became the darling of state policy makers, CSS's work documenting Medicaid beneficiaries' lack of knowledge and ability to navigate the complex health insurance bureaucracy led to the creation in 1999 of the highly regarded consumer ombudsprogram, called the Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program. CSS staff-members have held leadership roles in a number of health care coalitions, including: the New York City Task Force on Medicaid Managed Care, the New York State Health Care Campaign, Metro Health Care for All, New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage, and Medicaid Matters New York.

**The Children's Defense Fund- New York (CDF-NY):** For 15 years, CDF-NY has focused on health insurance and access to care for children and families in New York. In 1998, CDF-NY was instrumental in securing the expansion of the Child Health Plus program. By partnering with state and city officials, and through coalitions comprised of community-based organizations, health advocates and other key stakeholders, CDF-NY worked tirelessly to ensure that the Child Health Plus program offered a comprehensive benefits package to low- and moderate-income families, regardless of immigration status, and to ensure seamless transitions between it and its Medicaid-funded counterpart. Most recently, in 2007, CDF-NY developed a plan to provide coverage to all uninsured children in New York which resulted in enactment of legislation that expanded eligibility levels for Child Health Plus up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level. For more information please see [www.cdfny.org](http://www.cdfny.org)

**Center for Working Families (CWF):** The Center for Working Families grew out of a need identified by community-based organizations, unions and policy advocates who wanted to work together more closely to develop an ambitious policy reform agenda and then strategize together to achieve it. CWF has focused on the failure of many large employers to provide adequate health benefits. Through research and policy development, coalition building and meeting with policy-makers, CWF sought to: (1) raise awareness of the large number of uninsured workers and the failure of large, profitable corporations to provide health benefits; (2) engage a wide range of advocacy, labor and community groups on the need for large employers to do more to provide health benefits; and (3) to support specific policy responses to the crisis of employer-sponsored health insurance, especially "Fair Share" legislation. In 2005, CWF achieved an important victory when Suffolk County enacted a Fair Share for Health Care law. For more information please see [www.centerforworkingfamilies.info](http://www.centerforworkingfamilies.info)

## Health Care For All New York: Leadership agencies

**Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign (Metro NY):** Since its founding in the fall of 1994, Metro NY has been active in campaigns to: pass New York's landmark Managed Care Bill of Rights, enact its Family Health Plus program, expand the state's EPIC program, enact standards for hospital financial aid programs, and thwart efforts to scale back the state's Medicaid program. Metro NY has made an important contribution to these campaigns by activating coalition groups and individuals on each issue and by serving as a communicator between many campaign efforts. Metro NY has co-chaired the New York Network for Action on Medicare and Social Security (since 1998), the New York State Health Care Campaign (2001-06), and the Mental Health Care for All New Yorkers (2001-06.) Nationally, Metro NY has co-chaired the board of Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN since 2003) and the National Campaign to Protect, Preserve, and Expand Medicare (1998-99.)

**New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage (NYFAHC):** NYFAHC is a coalition of over 50 voluntary health organizations advocating statewide for greater access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance for people with serious illnesses and disabilities. The coalition combines technical expertise in health care financing and coverage with the ability to mobilize grassroots support for programs and policies that advance consumers' interests concerning health coverage. In the 1990s, NYFAHC was instrumental in the creation of New York's guaranteed issue community-rated coverage system in small group and individual insurance markets, and in creating subsidies and risk adjustment mechanisms for those markets. NYFAHC also helped shape groundbreaking provisions that guarantee access to specialty care and clinical trial treatments in commercial and public managed care in New York's laws. For more information, please see [www.cidny.org](http://www.cidny.org)

**New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC):** Founded in 1987, the NYIC is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for more than 200 groups in New York State that fights for justice and opportunity for immigrants and refugees. The NYIC works for fair and workable immigration policies and for immigrant access to health care, education, housing, workplace protections, and English language instruction. It leads the Immigrant Health Access and Advocacy Collaborative, a partnership of diverse immigrant serving organizations engaged in community based education, policy analysis and advocacy to improve immigrants' access to affordable, linguistically appropriate health care. Recently, the Collaborative participated in a successful multi-year campaign that resulted in New York State's groundbreaking hospital financial assistance and charity care law. NYIC also contributed to the inclusion of legal immigrants in New York State's Family Health Plus program and a multi-sector campaign to preserve the rights of immigrant women to access the state's Prenatal Care Assistance Program. For more information please see [www.thenyic.org](http://www.thenyic.org)

**The Public Policy and Education Fund of New York (PPEF):** PPEF, an organization affiliated with Citizens Action New York, created the New York State Health Care Campaign in 1986 and led a 2-year campaign to expand Medicaid eligibility to the Federal Poverty Level. PPEF ran a grassroots, consumer driven campaign which involved low-income health care consumers telling their stories publicly to the media throughout New York; release of reports on the uninsured around the state; collecting postcards and holding rallies and vigils. In 1998, PPEF and the Health Care Campaign joined with SEIU/1199 in a campaign to expand Child Health Plus to adults through a new program called Family Health Plus. PPEF organized town hearings, press events and rallies in regions throughout New York, drawing attention to working low-income families that did not have health coverage. From 2004 through 2006, PPEF produced a series of reports on hospital financial assistance policies that were instrumental in New York's enactment in 2006 of hospital financial assistance protections. For more information please see [www.citizenactionny.org](http://www.citizenactionny.org)