Prior to the passage of the Health Care Law:

• Small businesses were paying an average of 18 percent more than big businesses for the same coverage.

• 129 million Americans with pre-existing conditions could be denied coverage.

• Premiums had more than doubled over the last decade.
The Health Care Law Makes Health Care More Affordable

- Increased purchasing power for small businesses while improving the quality of health care.

- Requires insurance companies to spend at least 80 percent of premium on care rather than administration.

- Requires insurance companies to disclose and justify large rate increases publically.

- Offers tax credits to businesses for offering coverage to their employees.
The health care law is helping to transform the nation’s health care system from treatment-based to prevention-based care by making grant funding available for workplace wellness programs.

Comprehensive wellness programs keep people healthy and reduce health care costs while improving health and productivity of the workforce.

Wellness programs provide clear and tangible benefits to employers and ensure a healthier and happier workforce.
• The average US family and their employer pay $1,000 a year extra in health insurance costs to cover care for the uninsured.

• If a company has more than 50 employees and chooses not to cover its workers, it may have to pay an assessment to help offset its employees’ health care costs.

• Under the law, small businesses with fewer than 50 full time employees will not be required to pay this assessment.
The Health Care Law Provides New Coverage Options

• Beginning in 2014, small businesses will be able to shop in the new affordable insurance exchange, Covered California.

• Covered California will make it easy to find health plans, enroll employees, and consolidate billing.

• Covered California will allow risk to be spread across a big pool of workers just like large businesses.
Covered California: California’s Health Benefit Exchange

The vision of the Covered California is to improve the health of all Californians by assuring their access to affordable, high quality care.

The mission of the Covered California is to increase the number of insured Californians, improve health care quality, lower costs, and reduce health disparities through an innovative, competitive marketplace that empowers consumers to choose the health plan and providers that give them the best value.
Covered California: California’s Health Benefit Exchange Values

**Consumer-focused**

At the center of the Exchange’s efforts are the people it serves, including patients and their families, and small business owners and their employees. The Exchange will offer a consumer-friendly experience that is accessible to all Californians, recognizing the diverse cultural, language, economic, educational and health status needs of those we serve.

**Affordability**

The Exchange will provide affordable health insurance while assuring quality and access.
Catalyst

The Exchange will be a catalyst for change in California’s health care system, using its market role to stimulate new strategies for providing high-quality, affordable health care, promoting prevention and wellness, and reducing health disparities.

Integrity

The Exchange will earn the public’s trust through its commitment to accountability, responsiveness, transparency, speed, agility, reliability, and cooperation.
Covered California: California’s Health Benefit Exchange Values

**Partnership**

The Exchange welcomes partnerships, and its efforts will be guided by working with consumers, providers, health plans, employers and other purchasers, government partners, and other stakeholders.

**Results**

The impact of the Exchange will be measured by its contributions to expanding coverage and access, improving health care quality, promoting better health and health equity, and lowering costs for all Californians.
Covered California: Timeline

- Passage of Affordable Care Act (2010)
- California Awarded Level 1 Grant (2011)
- Proposed Early Enrollment Begins (2012)
- Exchange is financially self-sustaining (2013)
- California First in Nation Exchange Legislation (2014)
- California Applies for Level 2 Grant (2015)
- Exchange and Medical Coverage Goes Live (2015)
Major Issues Before Covered California

- Business, Operations, and Financial Sustainability
- Enrollment & Information Technology
- Communication Support; Research and Marketing, Outreach, and Education
- Assisters Strategy
- Health Plan Management and Delivery Reform
- Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP)
- Essential Benefits
- Basic Health Plan

All supported by:
- Alignment and coordination with State partners
- Stakeholder Consultation
- Research and Analysis
Helping Small Businesses Implement the Health Care Law

The Endowment is:

• Partnering with business groups to successfully implement California’s Health Benefit Exchange, Covered California.

• Showing small businesses how Covered California could reduce their health benefit costs.

• Partnering with state offices, such as the Employment Development Department and Franchise Tax Board, to help small businesses navigate tax credits available under the law.
Helping Small Businesses Implement the Health Care Law

The Endowment is also working in partnership with business groups, leaders and owners for purposes of information, knowledge exchange and education of members, employers and employees.
Helping Small Businesses Implement the Health Care Law
Health Law Guide for Business

Developed with key business partners, Health Law Guide for Business is the first-of-its-kind website focused on business-specific provisions of the health care law.

our partners
Health Law Guide for Business

Health Law Guide for Business is a source of accurate information on the health care law:

• It was created and reviewed by leading California business owners to provide a non-biased, factual based resource for their members.

• The information in the website comes from a variety of valid government and private sector resources, and provides the most important and beneficial information to business owners.
Health Law Guide for Business

Between what has already been gone into effect and the developments leading to 2014 when the law is fully implemented, the business community can use Health Law Guide for Business to understand the changes and what they mean to them.

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act.
Health Law Guide for Business Publication

Written through a combination of data and human interest pieces, the Health Law Guide for Business publication will be inserted into Business Journals across the state beginning with Sacramento in December 2012.
The Business Community is Crucial to the Successful Implementation of the Health Care Law

- Legislation has already been passed in California to officially align state law with areas of the federal law.

- Employers should understand what the impact of the health care law’s provisions mean to their business today and what is coming up soon.

- As a leader in the business community, you have a unique opportunity to link business with information necessary to enhance the implementation of the health care law.
Good health goes beyond the medical care system

Small business outreach is a key factor in increasing access to preventive health in our communities.
Good health goes beyond the medical care system

Health happens during our daily lives, health happens in our neighborhoods, in our schools, in our workplaces and with prevention.
Your zip code shouldn't determine how long you live, but it does. Health Happens Here challenges us to think about health beyond doctor visits and diets. We have the power to make health happen where we live, learn and play.