



IT TAKES VISION

Key Questions When Considering a State-Based, Single Payer System in California

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Susan Philip, MPP



California Health Care Foundation



Key Questions When Considering a State-Based, Single-Payer System in California

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Authors: Susan Philip and Marian Mulkey

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Terminology

“Fundamentally, ‘single payer’ refers to a **single**, centralized, publicly organized means to collect, pool, and distributed money to pay for the delivery of consistent health care services for all members of a community.”

“The concept of single payer is sometimes conflated with universal coverage, but the ideas are distinct. Universality can be achieved through a variety of policy options that range from the extending current coverage programs and rules, to establishing a single-payer system.”

First order questions

- Who's in?
- What benefits will be covered?
- How will it be paid for?

“States, unlike the federal government, cannot operate with a budget deficit. Therefore, the ability to ensure revenue trends keep pace with health care cost trends is a fundamental concern for a state-based, single-payer program...”

Second Order Design Questions

- Purchasing arrangements: use of intermediaries (such as health plans) versus direct purchase of health care
- Payment adequacy and methodology
- Provider participation
- Consumer participation: eligibility and enrollment
- Covered benefits and services
- Governance and administration

Next steps

- Consider goals and the tradeoffs.
- Develop a roadmap with milestones, including those steps within immediate reach and those that require longer planning and implementation horizon.