



MISSISSIPPI  
HEALTH ADVOCACY  
PROGRAM

A Member of  
Sisters of Mercy Ministries

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## MHAP Seeks to Give Mississippians a Voice in Health Care Reform Roll-out

**JACKSON, Miss.** – The Mississippi Health Advocacy Program (MHAP) is partnering with four community based organizations to encourage and enable Mississippians to play a larger role in the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in the state. Funded by a 3 year, \$1.5 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Mississippi Affordable Care Act Implementation Project (MACAIP) seeks to engage consumers in discussions about health care reform in order to strengthen its successful roll-out in Mississippi.

“We need a plan for Mississippians designed by Mississippians,” said Corey Wiggins, MHAP program manager. “But for that to become a reality, Mississippians need to truly have a voice in how health care reform is implemented in our state. Our project will allow Mississippians to have that voice.”

Following a series of statewide dialogues held to gather consumer knowledge, views and ideas on health care reform implementation, MHAP has awarded grants to Coastal Family Health Center (Biloxi), Delta Citizens Alliance (Greenville), One Voice (Jackson), and Link Centre (Tupelo) to work in their respective areas to create self sustaining mechanisms to continue community and consumer involvement in the implementation process.

“In order for health care reform to fully benefit the people of Mississippi as intended, we need to engage the public, community leaders and policy makers,” Wiggins said. “As consumer advocates, we recognize that there are differing needs and perspectives in the various regions of the state. Partnering with organizations that have a record of service in their communities is an effective way to reach out to those communities.”

To learn more, please visit [www.msroadtoreform.org](http://www.msroadtoreform.org) or [facebook.com/MSRoadtoReform](https://www.facebook.com/MSRoadtoReform).

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*The Mississippi Health Advocacy Program (MHAP), founded in 1992, is a non-profit, consumer advocacy program dedicated to improving health policy in Mississippi. MHAP combines research, public education and community engagement to improve health policies, practices and funding in Mississippi, especially in support of the state's poor and underserved people.*

*The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, established in 1930, supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are awarded in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and southern Africa. Please visit [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org).*