

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA COMMON ELIGIBILITY COALITION BUSINESS PLAN

GAP ANALYSIS

08/July/10

The following analysis estimates the range of benefits that could result from implementation of a common eligibility program in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. The five programs selected to compute the possible financial impact include: (1) Earned Income Credit; (2) Supplemental Nutrition (Food Stamps) Program; (3) Women Infant & Children (WIC); and (4) Health Insurance (KidCare and Medicaid).

Range of Additional Clients to Be Enrolled

Type of Benefit		Miami-Dade		Broward		Palm Beach	
		Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
1	Earned Income Credit	6,598	16,495	3,344	8,360	2,011	5,029
2	SNAP/Food Stamps	0	34,264	0	96,593	6,736	80,777
3	Women, Infant and Children	8,423	16,846	3,537	7,074	2,031	4,062
4a	Health Insurance – Kids	55,580	111,159	36,269	72,538	22,272	44,544
4b	Health Insurance – Adults	26,288	52,575	11,047	22,094	7,376	14,751

Range of Estimated Benefits (millions of \$)

Type of Benefit		Miami-Dade		Broward		Palm Beach	
		Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
1	Earned Income Credit	\$13.5	\$33.8	\$6.7	\$16.8	\$4.0	\$10.0
2	SNAP/Food Stamps	\$0.0	\$57.3	\$0.0	\$160.3	\$11.3	\$135.0
3	Women, Infant and Children	\$6.9	\$13.8	\$2.9	\$5.8	\$1.6	\$3.3
4a	Health Insurance – Kids	\$83.4	\$166.7	\$54.4	\$108.8	\$33.4	\$66.8
4b	Health Insurance – Adults	\$78.9	\$157.7	\$33.1	\$66.3	\$22.1	\$44.3
Total		\$182.7	\$429.4	\$97.2	\$358.0	\$72.4	\$259.3

ASSUMPTIONS

Earned Income Credit (EIC) – The Brookings Institution makes available a comprehensive EIC dataset (www.brookings.edu/metro/EITC/EITC-Homepage.aspx) based on the tabulation of data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The data is available for each year between 1997 and 2007, for every county and zip code in the United States, and includes information on the total number of returns in 13 categories of adjusted gross income, along with the number of returns and the value of credits received for the EIC and the refundable portion of the Child Tax Credit. The Brookings Institution indicates that it may be reasonable to achieve 5% increases annually in the number of returns qualifying for the EIC through an outreach program. We have estimated the impact of a 2% increase and a 5% increase in the number of filers receiving the EIC, and the aggregate value of the increase based on the average annual value of the EIC received in 2007, to provide a possible range of benefits for each county.

Food Stamps – The income threshold for eligibility for food stamps is 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The population living in households with incomes up to 130% of the FPL was estimated using the 2008 American Community Survey. The current number of individuals enrolled in the Food Stamp program as of July 2010 was taken from caseload data provided by the Florida Department of Children and Families (www.dcf.state.fl.us/ess/agencyforms.shtml). DCF has established a target of enrolling 65% of the eligible population. We assume that the minimum gap to close for each county is the difference between current enrollment and 65% of those eligible by income. The maximum gap would enroll all individuals with incomes under the 130% threshold. In each case, the number of additional enrollees is multiplied by the average monthly food stamp benefit for the respective county, which is then multiplied by 12 to determine the annual value of the additional benefits.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) – The Florida Department of Health estimates the number of eligible women, infants and children once every year. This estimate was compared to the number of those actually enrolled in September 2009. The average value of food costs per client in September 2009 was used to estimate the potential additional resources that could be captured by each of the three counties if half or all of the gap were to be closed.

Health Insurance (KidCare) – The total number of children (under 18 years of age) was estimated using the 2008 American Community Survey. The same survey estimates that between 15% and 20% of children have no health insurance. The average annual value of enrollment is estimated as savings to local health care providers for uncompensated care, worth approximately \$1,500 per child. Estimates are provided for closing half of the gap and the entire gap.

Health Insurance (Medicaid) - The current number of individuals enrolled in Medicaid as of May 2010 was taken from caseload data provided by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). We estimate that the current number of people eligible could be increased by an additional 5% to 10%. The average annual value of enrollment is estimated as savings to local health care providers for uncompensated care, worth approximately \$3,000 per person.