

EXECUTIVE ORDER No.88

May 26, 2006

OFFICE OF CITYWIDE HEALTH INSURANCE ACCESS

WHEREAS, access to health insurance is a critical issue for New York City that impacts the health of its residents, the viability of its important health care sector, and the strength of its small and large businesses;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office of Health Insurance Access ("Office") was established in 2001 by Executive Order 51 in the Office of the Mayor to increase access to and improve health insurance coverage for New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the Office has created partnerships between City agencies, the Health and Hospitals Corporation ("HHC"), facilitated enrollers including health plans and community-based organizations and other public and private entities to identify and enroll New Yorkers uninsured New Yorkers eligible for public health insurance programs in them through HealthStat; and

WHEREAS, the Office is responsible under the terms of Executive Order 72 of 2005 for promoting access to health insurance for domestic partners of employees of City vendors and other businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Office also works to expand and promote access to affordable health insurance for employees of small businesses, independent and low-wage workers, who account for a majority of the City's uninsured residents; and

WHEREAS, Human Resources Administration ("HRA") is the principal agency responsible for enrolling and recertifying eligible residents into the Medicaid program, administering health care programs for the most vulnerable New Yorkers, as well as supporting employment retention, including access to health insurance, for those who have left public assistance; and

WHEREAS, access to private health insurance options and access to public health insurance programs, administered in New York City by HRA, are inter-connected; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to consolidate within a single agency the City's efforts to increase availability of, and access to, both public and private health insurance;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of New York, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Establishment of Office of Citywide Health Insurance Access. Effective June 1, 2006, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the functions of the Office, as set forth in Executive Order 51 of 2001 and Executive Order 72 of 2005, as well as the Office's staff, shall be transferred to a unit within HRA which shall be known as the Office of Citywide Health Insurance Access ("OCHIA").

§ 2. Purpose and Functions. OCHIA shall be responsible for:

(1) Expanding access to public health insurance through the operation of the HealthStat Initiative involving City agencies, the HHC and other public and private sector agencies and organizations so that all eligible New York City residents are enrolled into public health insurance programs and efficiencies in outreach, education, enrollment and recertification processes are realized;

(2) Conducting projects to enhance the coordination between the City's public health insurance enrollment activities and HRA-administered health care programs such as home attendant services and services for persons with HIV/AIDS;

(3) Increasing access to private health insurance options, especially for small businesses and low-wage workers, through regular consultation and collaboration in outreach and conducting demonstration projects with the Department of Small Business Services and the Economic Development Corporation and other public and private sector agencies and organizations; and

(4) Undertaking studies, developing policy recommendations and preparing reports regarding public and private health insurance availability and health insurance options.

§ 3. Agency Assistance. All agencies shall cooperate in providing such personnel, facilities, information and other assistance as is appropriate and may be required to carry out the provisions of this Executive Order.

§ 4. Annual Report. The HRA Administrator/Commissioner shall present in its annual report to the Mayor a detailed summary of OCHIA's activities and status of public and private health insurance availability and health insurance options in New York City.

§ 5. This Order shall take effect immediately.

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor