

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Access to affordable health care will reduce health disparities among people of color

Organization Description: Founded in 1909, NAACP is the oldest and largest civil rights organization and works to achieve political, educational, social, and economic equality for minority groups. Its goal is to eliminate racial prejudice and remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes. NAACP drives their advocacy efforts through volunteerism and partnerships with other organizations.

Proposal Summary: NAACP develops national health education initiatives, engages in community outreach, and partners with national and local organizations to sponsor health campaigns. Its goal is to increase access to high quality health care for all citizens and reduce health-related disparities among people of color through policies and practices. NAACP focuses on a range of health care issues such as universal insurance coverage, obesity, HIV/AIDS, and mental health. NAACP's health agenda is only a subset of its broader advocacy efforts in education, economic empowerment, criminal justice and other areas where it is interested in reducing racial disparities.

- **Coverage:** Because minorities are less likely to be insured, NAACP advocates for equal access to high quality, affordable health insurance for minorities. NAACP focuses primarily on reducing disparities in health care coverage, quality, and access, but it ultimately supports equal access for all citizens. NAACP encourages African Americans to sign up for the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. In addition to health insurance, NAACP believes all citizens should have equal access to health services, medicine, and preventive care.
- **Wellness and Prevention:** NAACP supports efforts to reduce obesity and HIV/AIDS disparities. Obesity and heart-related diseases are significantly higher among African-Americans, and NAACP organizes health education programs like its Fitness Challenge to educate the community on these issues.

Proposal Date: 2004-2006

Sources: Health Policies and Advocacy, <http://www.naacp.org/advocacy/health/index.htm>; Health Goals, <http://www.naacp.org/advocacy/health/goals/index.htm>.