

HIV Fact Sheet



GENERAL ASSISTANCE MEDICAL CARE

GAMC Provides Health Care Coverage to Most Vulnerable

Minnesota's General Assistance Medical Care provides essential health care coverage to some of Minnesota's most vulnerable single adults, including approximately 300 people living with HIV. Without access to this vital program, some may go without health care until their health has drastically declined and they end up in hospital emergency rooms.

Education about HIV and how it is transmitted, and necessary medical care and support services are important elements of health care. When people living with HIV receive these services, they are more likely to live longer, healthier lives, and less likely to transmit the virus to others. With Minnesota's HIV rate on the rise, including a 13% overall increase in 2009, it's all the more important to ensure that vulnerable people living HIV get the health care they need.

In 2009, the Legislature passed a health care funding bill that continued the GAMC program. Governor Pawlenty line-item vetoed that provision, and then further unallotted the program at the close of the legislative session.

GAMC is an Integral Part of Minnesota's Health Care System

Minnesotans living with HIV obtain health care coverage through a variety of means. But for our most vulnerable single adults without children, GAMC is the safety net that protects them from falling through the cracks. Single adults without children may not be eligible for coverage from private insurance, employer-based insurance or other state programs such as MinnesotaCare and federal programs like the Ryan White program or Medicaid.

TAKE ACTION!

Because the GAMC program is funded with state dollars, it is at risk for being discontinued due to Minnesota's state budget deficit. A campaign is currently underway to provide a temporary solution to the cuts to the GAMC program. Legislative leaders and the Governor have reached compromise on a proposal that would continue benefit levels and eligibility for GAMC enrollees, but drastically cuts payments to hospitals. Please support the continuation of the GAMC program for Minnesota's most vulnerable single adults, including people living with HIV.

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Updated as of March 2010