

THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*Office of Health Care Access*

**“ACHIEVE” Initiative**

**A Connecticut Healthcare Initiative for Expansion, Value and Efficiency  
made possible by a**

**ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION  
STATE INITIATIVE IN HEALTH CARE REFORM GRANT**

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In February 1999, the State of Connecticut Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) was awarded a \$663,924 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to research health care access in the State of Connecticut and to analyze the overall effectiveness of the State health care purchasing system. Grant activities also include an evaluation of the State’s HUSKY (Healthcare for Uninsured Kids and Youth) outreach and expansion program for uninsured children. OHCA is the lead agency for the three-year initiative that spans from February 1999 through February 2002. OHCA coordinates grant activities through an Executive Steering Committee consisting of representatives from several State agencies including the Office of Policy and Management, Department of Social Services, Department of Insurance, Department of Administrative Services, and others. Interagency collaboration is essential to the success of this initiative.

**What are the objectives of the ACHIEVE initiative?**

The objectives of the initiative are to measure the success of efforts to expand health care access to uninsured children, to determine if the State has maximized the value of the health care that it purchases, and to promote more efficient health care purchasing. The initiative consists of two major projects:

1. *An insurance expansion initiative* – focuses on family health care access issues, especially as they relate to the new Children’s HUSKY Health Insurance Plan implemented under Title XXI.
2. *A healthcare purchasing initiative* – focuses on State agency health spending activities and will examine ways the State can coordinate and improve purchasing and contracting.

OHCA is developing mechanisms for data integration and coordination, and is expanding its data warehousing capacity to include new information on purchasing, access and utilization.

**The results expected from the ACHIEVE Initiative include:**

- Use of State agency health spending data to generate value-based purchasing strategies;
- Implementation of coordinated purchasing strategies to improve health plan quality and effectiveness;
- Measurement of the effectiveness of the HUSKY Children’s Health Insurance Program;
- Application of successful HUSKY outreach strategies to further expand coverage and participation.

The ACHIEVE initiative provides an important opportunity for OHCA to partner with other agencies and the private sector to explore ways to expand health insurance coverage, to foster cost control and to collect, analyze and disseminate data to support sound policy making.