

# HEALTH PROGRAM

The U.S. health care system is on an unsustainable path. The problems of rising health care costs, eroding coverage, and inconsistent quality are endangering our nation's future health, productivity, and finances. And, with a dearth of wellness programs to promote the simplest measures, like exercise and nutritious meals, Americans will continue to suffer from preventable illnesses. To successfully meet all of these future demands, transforming our health care system will require a new level of cooperation among federal and state governments, health care industry leaders, and consumers.

The Health Program has two major projects:

**The Health Project** launched in 2011 and focuses on states' health care challenges, forging consensus among leaders from all sectors of the health care system and both sides of the political aisle, and highlighting innovation. The passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act underscored a need for cooperation by creating opportunities as well as serious time and resource burdens. Matching excellent health care with budgetary and workforce challenges will require creative and viable strategies.

**The Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative** launched in 2011 to respond to a profound public health crisis. Fully two-thirds of American adults are overweight or obese; one-third of American children are. Obesity causes chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, asthma, heart disease, and cancer. It's also a reason why life expectancy in parts of the U.S. is years lower than that of other advanced countries. Meanwhile, escalating health care costs are driving an out-of-control national debt, which jeopardizes global competitiveness and national security by undermining a robust economy, a highly productive workforce, and a top-notch military. This yearlong effort gathered experts and policymakers to explore solutions to this enormous fiscal, social, economic, and public health threat.

# Health Project Accomplishments

## Health 2.0

The Delivery System Reform and Health Information Technology Task Force examines the real-world delivery of accountable, coordinated care and recommends steps to ensure that health IT improves quality and reduces costs.

- ★ The initiative's first report, *Transforming Health Care: The Role of Health IT*, outlined recommendations for health IT on topics like information exchange, privacy and security, and consumer engagement.
- ★ The U.S. Department of Health's Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT included much of the report's language and suggestions in its proposed rules and criteria for electronic health records.

## Next Generation Workers

The Health Professional Workforce Initiative is an effort aimed at ensuring providers, the heart of U.S. health care, are able to acquire the skills to deliver health care in the future.

- ★ The initiative released a joint study with The Deloitte Center for Health Solutions, *The Complexities of National Health Care Workforce Planning*, which launched with a high-profile event featuring former Senate Majority Leader BPC Senior Fellow Bill Frist, former Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Dr. Don Berwick, and Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration Dr. Mary Wakefield.

“We don't have to  
check our thoughts  
and ideas at the  
door.”

— Former Governor of  
South Dakota Mike Rounds





## LEADERSHIP HEALTH PROJECT



FORMER SENATE  
MAJORITY LEADER  
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TOM DASCHLE



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## PROJECT STAFF



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## Media Highlights

“Former Senate Majority Leaders Tom Daschle and Bill Frist will lead a bipartisan project to help states develop and implement policy changes required under the new health care law. ... ‘Moving forward, we know there remains a great political divide over the political future of our health care system but the need for substantive discussions and cooperation and working toward our shared goals has never been greater,’ Daschle, a Democrat, said at a press conference today.”

— *ABC News*

“The Task Force will identify examples of organizations who have promoted accountable, patient-centered care. ... We will highlight opportunities for and challenges related to leveraging health IT to support these new models of care. The Task Force will recommend key actions that must be taken to lay the foundation for delivery system and payment reforms that promise to improve health and healthcare in this country.”

— Former Senate Majority Leader and BPC Senior Fellow Bill Frist, *Healthcare IT News*

## Looking Ahead

In 2012, the Health Project will:

- ★ Highlight the progress and new innovations occurring in the states around solving the challenges in our health care system.
- ★ Publish a report in 2012 with recommendations that address the gaps and barriers to health care data-sharing capabilities, which are vital for new models of care delivery.
- ★ Collaborate with the Debt Reduction Task Force to address the issue of health care cost containment.

“The Bipartisan Policy Center is unique in that we have Republicans who are real Republicans and Democrats who are real Democrats—who are able to not only sit around the table themselves, but ask others to come join them.”

— Director Julie Barnes

# Nutrition And Physical Activity Initiative Accomplishments

## Executive Action

The President's Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition joined the Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative to host a discussion on U.S. physical activity, which injected two new ideas into the national dialogue:

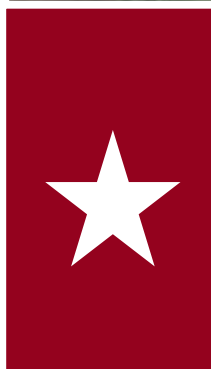
- ★ President of the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation Colin Hilton introduced the concept of “physical literacy,” which calls for Americans—regardless of age or athletic ability—to learn the fundamentals needed to lead active lives.
- ★ The Environmental Protection Agency's Gina McCarthy presented her Great Park Pursuit, which uses technology to get families outside and moving.

## Child Care

One year after the passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, the Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative hosted a roundtable conversation focused on early childhood health, federal feeding programs, and incentive programs. The initiative also hosted a dialogue about the nutritional needs during the first 1,000 days of a child's life.

## Live, Work, Play

The Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative held a two-day healthy-institutions forum at the University of Miami. Attendees explored improving nutrition at large venues—like hospitals, schools, and stadiums—and enhancing workplace wellness efforts. Whether it's food offered in public or employer-sponsored programs, these big institutions serve Americans millions of meals and have a real effect on our health outcomes.





## LEADERSHIP

### NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INITIATIVE



FORMER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND BPC SENIOR FELLOW DAN GLICKMAN



FORMER GOVERNOR OF UTAH AND FORMER HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARY MIKE LEAVITT



FORMER HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARY DONNA E. SHALALA



FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF AND FORMER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ANN M. VENEMAN

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## Media Highlights

“All members of Congress should want to see American kids eat better and live healthy, productive lives. In the United States, childhood obesity constitutes an epidemic, with serious and growing long-term consequences, for individuals and the nation as a whole. We support USDA as it moves forward to implement the remainder of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act and to make important changes to school food standards.”

— Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative co-chairs Dan Glickman and Ann M. Veneman, *The Huffington Post*

“Farmers and other agricultural leaders will have to get used to consumers, doctors and other activists becoming involved in agricultural policy.”

— Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative co-chair Dan Glickman, *AGWEEK*

“For the first time in our nation’s history, our children and grandchildren are on track to live shorter lives than their parents. They will be sicker and less healthy than the generation that preceded them—our generation. Today, more than a third of American children are overweight or obese. That’s one in every three kids who are strong candidates for chronic health problems like cancer, diabetes and heart disease.”

— Former Senate Majority Leader and BPC Senior Fellow Bill Frist, *The Hill*

## Looking Ahead

In 2012, the Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative seeks to:

- ★ Promote healthy schools with programs like school gardens and partnerships with local chefs, farmers, and sports teams are changing school culture.
- ★ Improve community health by scaling up successful pilot programs at nonprofits, private companies, and governments—many of which are creating healthier communities by promoting healthy eating, physical activity, and initiatives like city bike-share programs.
- ★ Encourage healthy institutions through effective employee wellness programs, nutrition education for health care providers, facilities designed to promote physical activity, and healthier concessions at large venues like movie theaters and sports arenas.
- ★ Deliver recommendations drawn from the information obtained throughout 2011 in a final policy report.

# SPOTLIGHT

## Health Project Healthy Exposure



What are the most exciting ideas in health care? The Health Project, in collaboration with Seton Healthcare Family and the Texas e-Health Alliance, hosted a Health Innovation Exchange in Austin, Texas, to find local solutions to national health care problems.

The Health Project invited Texans with new strategies for improving health care delivery to apply to participate in the “Healthy Ideas Showcase: Changing the Way Health Care is Delivered.” Texas’ top leaders in health care and health information technology (HIT) considered applications, and 13 innovations were selected to present at the conference. Here is just a sample:

- ★ Children’s Optimal Health (COH) gives health care providers, social services agencies, and communities access to unique geographic-information systems that highlight the health issues facing Central Texas children. By layering data from multiple sources, COH helps leaders visualize the health of their neighborhoods, identify assets and needs, and unearth opportunities for change.
- ★ The University of Texas at Austin, along with partners from the HIT industry and other groups, designed a nine-week

certificate program—supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology—for students entering the HIT workforce. They built a unique center to give students hands-on experience with six electronic health-record systems and to teach workflow processes in a mock ambulatory clinic. Of the inaugural graduates seeking HIT employment, 92 percent found jobs within eight months.

- ★ North Texas Specialty Physicians created a health-information exchange for real-time patient information. SandlotConnect® contains approximately two million patient records and is integrated with more than 350 physicians’ electronic health records and 12 hospitals spanning seven counties. The program helps physicians coordinate care, manage quality, and reduce health care costs.

Countless health care reforms and innovations are being tested nationwide. By identifying the most promising, the Health Project will help health care leaders meet their greatest challenges.

# Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative

## Let's Get Physical



Co-chairs of BPC's Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, to discuss affordable and accessible physical activity programs for kids and families. They also toured athletic facilities around the city and Dan Glickman challenged local kids to a hula-hoop showdown.