



**Human Resources Administration**  
Department of Social Services  
Robert Doar, *Commissioner*

## **New York City a National Leader in Health Insurance Coverage**

New York City is a leader in health insurance coverage among major US cities. While the percentage of uninsured Americans increased dramatically in 2009, the percentage actually decreased slightly in New York during the same time period. In fact, the percentage of children without health insurance decreased in New York City from 5.7 percent to 4.5 percent, the lowest rate among the nation's eight largest cities. HRA has played a significant role in keeping New Yorkers insured. In particular, the Medical Insurance and Community Services Administration (MICSA) and Office of Citywide Health Insurance Access (OCHIA) have been instrumental in connecting New Yorkers with public or private health insurance coverage based on their needs.

MICSA oversees the Medical Assistance Program (MAP), which administers the public health insurance programs Medicaid and Family Health Plus in New York City. MICSA's other programs, Adult Protective Services (APS), the HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA), and the Home Care Services Program (HCSP), also provide services to vulnerable New Yorkers with specific health care needs, and help connect eligible clients with health insurance and other benefits as part of the services they provide. The number of New Yorkers enrolled in Medicaid has increased by 10.3 percent since the start of the recession in 2008, bringing the total to over 2.8 million. This increase in coverage is due to MAP's efficient implementation of State expansion of Medicaid eligibility and simplification of the enrollment process, HRA's high tech advances such as online Medicaid renewal, and OCHIA's outreach efforts through programs like HealthStat and NYC Health Insurance Link.

OCHIA works to connect New Yorkers to the type of health insurance that is right for them, whether that is public or private coverage. For the past decade, OCHIA has coordinated a citywide public-private partnership known as HealthStat that helps residents learn about and enroll in public health insurance at convenient locations throughout the City. OCHIA also works to connect teens to health insurance, including coverage for reproductive health services, through pilot projects in public high schools. In September of 2009, OCHIA released NYC Health Insurance Link, a powerful web-based decision-support tool which allows New Yorkers to compare health insurance options side by side, with clear, detailed and unbiased information on each plan. NYC Health Insurance Link also helps small businesses find coverage for their employees. A new feature of the website explains federal health care reform (the Affordable Care Act) and how it will affect individuals and small businesses in the coming years. Since its launch, NYC Health Insurance Link has served nearly 50,000 New Yorkers.

Through these efforts and others, New York City has already made great strides towards many of the health coverage goals of federal health care reform. Going forward, HRA will continue to leverage new coverage options and resources available through the Affordable Care Act to further increase health insurance coverage for City residents.