

Position Regarding: *Support of Governor Herbert's "Healthy Utah Plan"*

The Utah Association of Local Health Departments (UALHD) recognizes and supports Governor Gary Herbert's proposal that would push the federal government to block grant dollars in an effort to allow the state to administer its own program; thus an alternative to Medicaid expansion. It is our understanding that the primary points of this proposal would:

- Create a three-year pilot program to assist Utahans, who make under \$15,500 a year, to pay for health insurance in private markets with assistance dependent upon four factors:
 - Ability to work;
 - Household income;
 - Access to employer or family health insurance; and
 - Individual health care needs.
- Require that all participants in the Healthy Utah Plan be responsible to make co-payments to help pay for care costs.
- Be monitored and evaluated by the Utah Department of Health to determine how best to proceed based on outcomes and the federal government's ability to meet funding obligations.

The Healthy Utah Plan follows four principles outlined by the Governor in his State of the State Address: 1) individual responsibility; 2) support of private markets; 3) maximization of state flexibility in the administration of federal programs; and 4) to serve the best interests of the taxpayer. The Utah Association of Local Health Departments recognizes the need to be mindful of taxpayers' dollars, and feels that the Governor's proposal is both attentive to these dollars and the health needs of Utah's citizens.