



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Center for Health Equity Urges Governor and Legislature to Take Immediate Measures for Expansion of Medicaid Coverage**

400,000 uninsured Louisianans could benefit

(Baton Rouge – Nov. 12, 2012) The Louisiana Center for Health Equity released the following statement from Alma C. Stewart, LCHE President, in response to the November 6 election results. Stewart, a registered nurse and long time health advocate, had this to say:

“The U. S. Supreme Court upheld the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 earlier this year. Now, with the presidential election behind us, the Louisiana Center for Health Equity (LCHE) urges Governor Jindal and the Legislature to move forward with implementing the expansion of Medicaid coverage to hundreds of thousands of uninsured Louisianans.

While Louisiana residents have already started benefitting from the ACA, we could see more benefits as the law’s major provisions take effect in 2014. Louisiana could reap a significant incentive from this law with the Medicaid expansion as the federal government will pick up the vast majority of the cost.

Thousands of uninsured working parents and other adults with low to moderate incomes could get the quality healthcare they need if Governor Jindal and the Legislature move forward with Medicaid expansion. This new coverage opportunity is especially critical when the state is making cuts to its public hospitals that serve as a safety-net for people without health insurance who need care. With twenty percent of Louisiana’s population uninsured, a failure to expand Medicaid will leave a projected 400,000 Louisianans without health coverage and waste an opportunity to infuse hundreds of millions of dollars into our state’s economy.

LCHE urges the Governor and the Legislature to begin immediate measures to take advantage of this noteworthy opportunity on behalf of the people of Louisiana. Failure to do so would be immensely irresponsible.”

### **About the Louisiana Center for Health Equity**

LCHE works to address the increasing disparities in health and health care across Louisiana. LCHE represents the interest of health equity by promoting the elimination of health disparities caused by poverty, lack of access to quality health care and unhealthy environmental conditions with a focus on community health and wellness. The Louisiana Center for Health Equity (LCHE) is a nonpartisan non-profit IRS tax exempt public charity 501 (c) (3) organization. To learn more about LCHE, visit [www.lahealthequity.org](http://www.lahealthequity.org) or email [info@lahealthequity.org](mailto:info@lahealthequity.org).

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