

## **Executive Order 2004-16**

### **TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION REGARDING HEALTH CARE OPTIONS FOR THE UNINSURED**

**WHEREAS**, over one million Arizonans lack health insurance, leaving Arizona with one of the highest percentages of uninsured populations in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, uninsured Arizonans are less likely to get routine checkups, use prescription medications when first needed, and detect illnesses at a point when they can be treated most effectively; and

**WHEREAS**, the large number of uninsured Arizonans is creating significant demands on state resources and our healthcare system, including by substantially increasing the number of patients who visit emergency rooms as their usual source of care; and

**WHEREAS**, new state and federal programs have begun to help reduce both the number of uninsured Arizonans and the health care expenses of uninsured Arizonans; and

**WHEREAS**, these programs include efforts by the Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System (“AHCCCS”) to develop innovative and affordable health insurance products to meet the needs of uninsured employees of small businesses in Arizona, as well as the State of Arizona CoppeRx Card and the federal Medicare discount card program, each of which help lower the prescription drug expenses of uninsured Medicare-eligible Arizonans; and

**WHEREAS**, despite news stories regarding these programs, a substantial percentage of eligible Arizonans still do not know they exist or how to enroll in them; and

**WHEREAS**, the foregoing circumstances constitute a significant potential for a health crisis in Arizona; and

**WHEREAS**, these circumstances are neither a contingency nor an emergency pursuant to A.R.S. § 35-192 because they require neither state-municipal resource coordination nor Department of Emergency and Military Affairs assistance;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State, declare a significant potential for a health crisis in the State, and hereby order as follows:

1. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-797, the sum of \$200,000.00 shall be transferred from the Healthcare Crisis Fund to AHCCCS for outreach and education of the public and the small business community regarding enrollment in Healthcare Group.
2. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-797, the sum of \$200,000.00 shall be transferred from the Health Crisis Fund to AHCCCS for outreach and education of Medicare-eligible Arizonans regarding their options for obtaining prescription discount cards,

including the State of Arizona CoppeRx Card and the various federal Medicare discount cards.

3. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-797, the sum of \$30,000.00 shall be transferred from the Health Crisis Fund to AHCCCS to cover the cost of mailing to low income Medicare-eligible Arizonans information regarding how to enroll in both the CoppeRx Plus Card and the federal Medicare discount card program, including qualification requirements for the \$600 prescription drug benefit under federal program.
4. AHCCCS shall expend all moneys transferred pursuant to this Order for the purposes described herein and shall report to the Legislature and to the Governor by December 31, 2004 on the expenditure of all sums so transferred.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

**GOVERNOR**

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this \_\_\_\_ day of June in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Four and of the independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Twenty-Eighth.

**ATTEST:**

**SECRETARY OF STATE**