

Appendix – 1(a)

*Institute of Medicine
Recommendations*

Recommendations of Institute of Medicine for Improving the State of Health Care Safety Net

Recommendation 1:

Federal and state policy makers should explicitly take into account and address the full impact (both intended and unintended) of changes in Medicaid policies on the viability of safety net providers and populations they serve.

Recommendation 2:

All federal programs and policies targeted to support the safety net and populations it serves should be reviewed for their effectiveness in meeting the needs of the uninsured.

Recommendation 3:

The committee recommends that concerted efforts be directed to improving this nation's capacity and ability to monitor the changing structure, capacity, and financial stability of the safety net to meet the health care needs of the uninsured and vulnerable populations.

Recommendation 4:

Given the growing number of uninsured people, the adverse effects of Medicaid managed care on safety net provider revenues, and the absence of concerted public policies directed at increasing the rate of insurance coverage, the committee believes that a new targeted federal initiative should be established to help support core safety net providers that care for a disproportionate number of uninsured and other vulnerable people.

Recommendation 5:

The committee recommends that technical assistance programs and policies targeted to improving the operations and competitive position of safety net providers be enhanced and better coordinated.