



HEALTH and WELFARE AGENCY

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Dear Californian:

The 1980 California State Health Plan has been submitted as a Preliminary State Health Plan to the Bureau of Health Planning, Department of Health and Human Services in partial fulfillment of federal grant #09-P-001186-05. The Plan provides an overall foundation upon which appropriate future policy decisions can be based. It proposes a fundamental philosophy and points the direction for the growth and evolution of California's health care system. The Plan is not an officially adopted policy document of the Administration; nor is it a regulation, statute, budget proposal or an initiative. Action on the Plan's recommendations will be guided and governed by fiscal constraints and only through normal legislative and administrative processes.

The delivery of health services in this State is characterized by the paradox of impressive medical technology capable of dramatic achievements, accompanied by gaps in availability of basic primary health care services to many people. Although nonmedical factors such as the environment, diet and lifestyles have more long-run impact on health than medical care, most of our health resources are devoted to medical care. In an attempt to deal with these problems, government has instituted a vast array of programs, some of which are duplicative, conflicting and inadequate.

A constructive response requires a comprehensive guide for the State's actions to improve health and to make the delivery of health care services more effective and efficient.

An enlightened and vocal public willing to support difficult decisions necessary to effect an equitable distribution of health resources is our best hope to solve these complex problems. Thirty-eight public hearings and numerous meetings of technical review groups were held across this State as the Plan was developed. This involvement of consumers, health care providers, health systems agencies and the local, state and federal governments must continue and expand in the implementation and further refinement of the Plan.

Success will depend on our mutual efforts.

Sincerely,

MARIO G. OBLEDO
Secretary
Health and Welfare Agency

HENRY W. ZARETSKY, PH.D.
Director
Office of Statewide Health
Planning and Development

Individuals or organizations may obtain a single copy of the Plan at no cost by calling (916) 322-7425 or writing to:

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Division of Health Planning
714 P Street, Room 1000
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Additional copies may be ordered by mail only. There will be a charge of \$5.00 for each of these extra copies. Please enclose check or money order payable to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.