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## Highlights of Blagojevich health care plan

By The Associated Press

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Facts about the "Illinois Covered" health care proposal from Gov. Rod Blagojevich: The Plan

--People below the federal poverty level who have no children could enroll in a new government program similar to Medicaid.

--People making up to four times the poverty level but who cannot get insurance through their job could sign up for low-cost coverage mandated by the state.

--People who can't afford the insurance offered through their jobs would get state assistance paying their premiums.

--The state would expand eligibility for existing programs that serve some parents and disabled people who are returning to work. The Cost

--When fully implemented, Illinois Covered would cost the state more than \$2 billion a year.

--A study by an Emory University professor found that Illinois residents and businesses would save roughly \$2 for every \$1 spent on the plan.

--Blagojevich proposed paying for the program with two new taxes -- one on companies that spend little on health insurance and one on business transactions. He also says gambling expansion could help pay for it. The Need

--Blagojevich says approximately 1.4 million Illinoisans lack health care.

--A recent Northern Illinois University found that 17 percent of Illinoisans consider health care their top issue, compared to 30 percent for education.

--The survey found that 64 percent support more state funding for medical care.

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