

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

OPENING DOORS TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Gateway Foundation supports efforts that improve access to treatment for millions of Americans who struggle with substance abuse issues, such as The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as The Affordable Care Act (ACA). Nicknamed Obamacare, The ACA is the new healthcare reform law in America that sets out to change the healthcare system by providing more Americans with affordable health insurance.

This means, effective January 1, 2014, all insurance carriers and Medicaid are required to cover the costs associated with treatment for substance use disorders on their insureds' behalf. As a result of this landmark legislation, a significant financial barrier for treatment is lifted for millions of Americans who deserve the chance to get life back on track.

The provisions within The ACA identify substance abuse treatment as one of the **10 essential health benefits** covered by an individual's health insurance.

EXPANDED BENEFITS FOR ADDICTION IS A WIN-WIN

By making treatment more accessible for millions of Americans through The ACA, individuals, society and businesses will realize immediate and long-term benefits, including:

- **Individual:** Improves overall health and healthcare outcomes as well as quality of life.
- **Society:** Enhances family, quality of life and career while lowering costs to society.
- **Business:** Improves employee job performance, reduces turnover and lowers healthcare costs.
- **Health Insurers:** Lowers overall healthcare costs.



Gateway Foundation recognizes the enormous impact The ACA will have upon the field of behavioral health, causing a ripple effect of treatment advances, such as:

- Elevate the importance of substance abuse treatment to that of other chronic health conditions, like heart disease, cancer, diabetes, hypertension and liver disease.
- Integrate substance abuse treatment into the primary care area, and recognize substance use disorders as the number one public health concern in America.