

Affordable Contraception

In a healthy community, all individuals have access to health insurance or services that cover the full range of contraceptive options. In a healthy community, insurance plans cover the cost of contraceptives in the same manner that they cover other prescription drugs. Further, subsidized health services (like Medicaid) also provide full and accurate information about contraceptive options, and all clients are empowered to select the options that are right for them, regardless of age or ability to pay.

Getting Started: There are laws and policies at the federal, state, and local levels that have an impact on the affordability of contraceptives in your community. Before moving ahead on this checklist, refer to the Plan A Grassroots Toolkit for tips on how to find out about the laws and policies in your area. This information will be critical in helping you assess the unique situation in your community.

- 1. What health care services are available to low-income women in your community?
- 2. Do the women who qualify for pregnancy-related services through Medicaid also qualify for family planning assistance from Medicaid?
- 3. How many health clinics in your community offer comprehensive family planning services?
- 4. How many of those clinics receive federal dollars?
- 5. Are there clinics in your community that advertise themselves as family planning clinics but offer only information about abstinence without providing contraceptive information?
- 6. How much does a brand name pack of birth control cost without insurance?
- 7. How much does a generic pack of birth control cost without insurance?
- 8. How much does prescription Plan B emergency contraception cost without insurance?
- 9. How much does over-the-counter Plan B emergency contraception cost?
- 10. Does the state Medicaid program require a prescription in order for Plan B emergency contraception to be covered?
- 11. Does your insurance plan cover contraceptives?
- 12. How many community agencies or service providers distribute condoms free of charge?

“I want to go further...”

- 1. Does your insurance company cover the full range of contraceptive options?
- 2. What is the average monthly cost of birth control in your community?
- 3. Does your insurance company cover over-the-counter Plan B?
- 4. What is the distribution policy, if any, for free condoms in your community?
- 5. Do insurance plans covering public employees in your community cover contraceptives in the same way as other prescriptions?