

# What is universal health care?

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## Frequently asked questions

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Universal health care is a system where all people have access to health care regardless of income or employment status. The single, unified system follows a uniform administrative process. Usually, countries or regions organize the system.

Some U.S. states, including Washington, are trying to create a universal system.

### How would a universal system help Washington?

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A universal system would help more people get high-quality, affordable care, so everyone can reach their full health potential. It could also keep down health care costs, which have grown rapidly. Additionally, a universal system would simplify administration tasks for providers, so they could focus on treating patients.

### Who oversees a universal system?

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Usually, the government oversees the system.

### Who pays for health care in a universal system?

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Universal systems can follow either a single payer or multi-payer model. In a single payer model, one group — usually the national government — pays for care. In a multi-payer model, a mix of public and private groups pay for care.

In many universal systems, funding for care comes from a mix of public funding sources and patient cost-sharing. Cost sharing can include copays, deductibles, and premiums.

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