



the power of state public health!

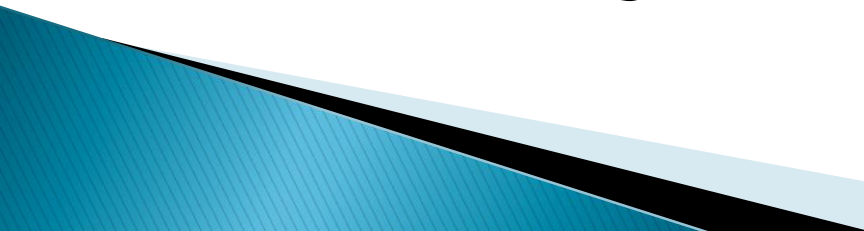
Immunizations as a Priority

- ▶ One of ASTHOs top priorities is immunizations and one goal in our policy statement is:
 - Enhanced, stable funding to support public health infrastructure for immunizations in order to assure timely and safe delivery of vaccines in the public and private sectors.

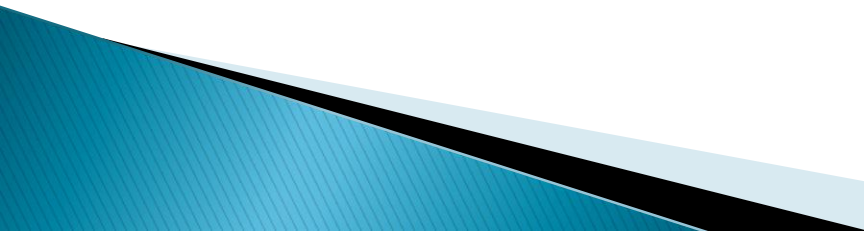
ASTHO Partnership with NVPO

- ▶ ASTHO worked in partnership with the National Vaccine Program Office the past summer and fall on holding regional meetings to roll-out the National Vaccine Plan and get input from stakeholders.
- ▶ The meetings were held to gain a local perspective on the plan and to get input on how to measure progress, implement innovative solutions to barriers and recognize opportunities for action.

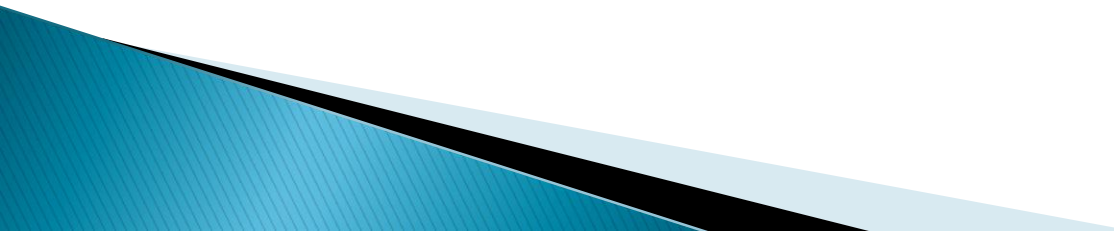
National Vaccine Plan

- ▶ The Plan provides a vision for the immunization enterprise and has five broad goals:
 - ▶ **Goal 1:** Develop new and improved vaccines.
 - ▶ **Goal 2:** Enhance the vaccine safety system.
 - ▶ **Goal 3:** Support communications to enhance informed vaccine decision-making.
 - ▶ **Goal 4:** Ensure a stable supply of, access to, and better use of recommended vaccines in the United States.
 - ▶ **Goal 5:** Increase global prevention of death and disease through safe and effective vaccination.
- 

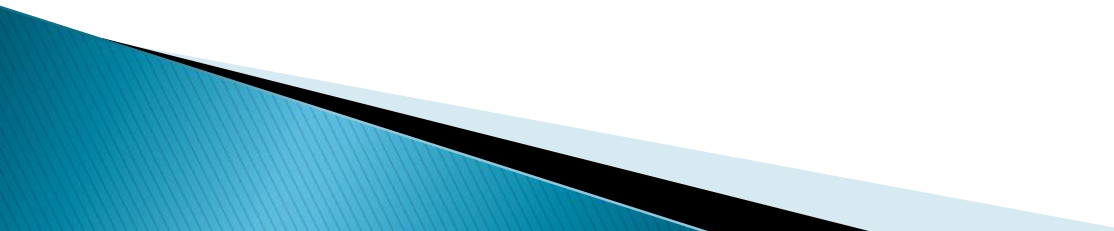
Next Steps

- ▶ One of the priorities of the National Vaccine Plan is to eliminate financial barriers for providers and consumers to facilitate access to routinely recommended vaccines.
 - ▶ The Affordable Care Act includes a provision to “federalize” the Medicaid reimbursement for two years to Medicaid primary care physicians for immunization administration.
 - ▶ The challenge is how to measure the impact of the provision.
- 

Next Steps

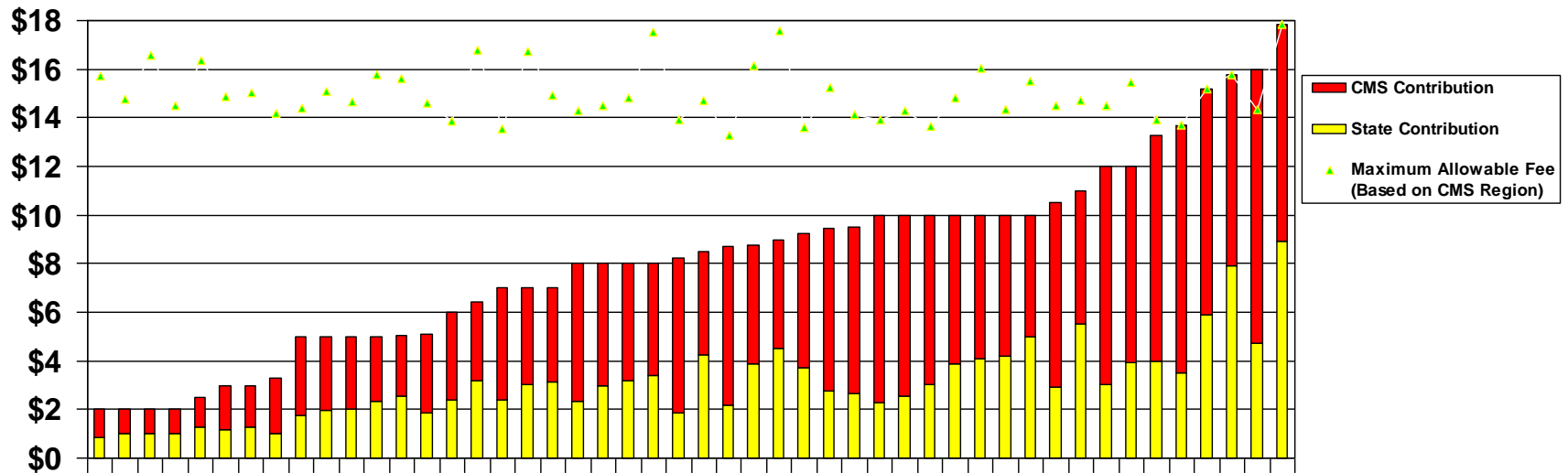
- ▶ ASTHO and NVPO are working together to try to measure the benefit of the ACA provision on reimbursement to providers.
 - ▶ The current status of this provision is that it is pre-decisional, meaning that no final federal regulations have been developed.
- 

Why the “bump-up” is important

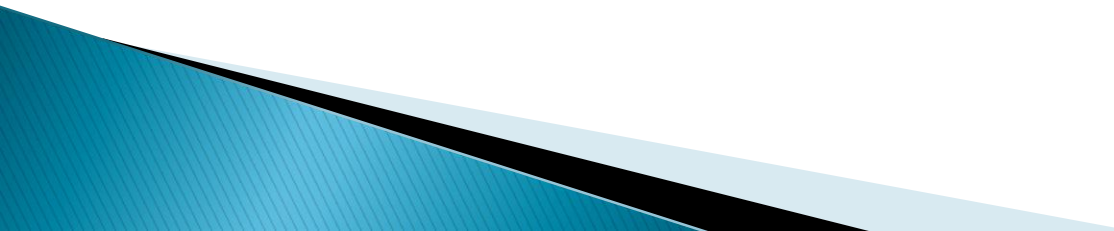
- ▶ Most states’ Medicaid agencies reimburse providers less than the cap, causing doctors to lose money vaccinating children
 - ▶ This is an important children’s health issue that deserves serious attention from policy makers at all levels
- 

Provider-Level Infrastructure Support inconsistent

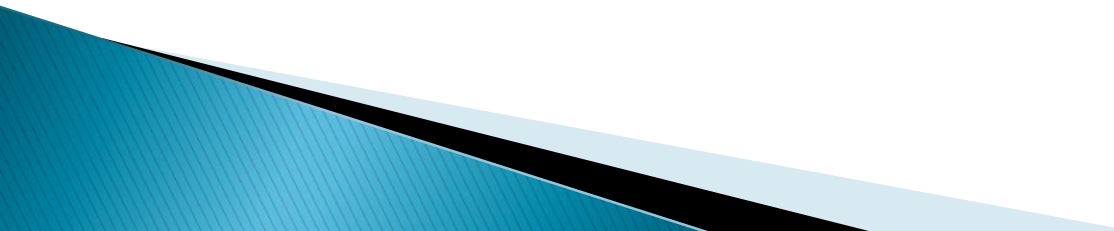
Administration Fee per Injection for the VFC Program by State (2005)



Specific Activity

- ▶ The state health departments are in a good position to think strategically about how this two year increase can be evaluated.
 - ▶ ASTHO will be coordinating 6 in-state meetings to gather information for this project.
- 

Goals of the In-State Meetings

- ▶ ASTHO will work with HHS and CDC to develop appropriate questions for a meeting with the State Health Official, Medicaid Director, Immunization Manager, and other critical partners identified by the state.
 - ▶ We hope to determine the states plans for increasing awareness about the provision, plans for implementation, coordination, and evaluation.
- 

In-State Meetings

- ▶ The plan is to hold these meeting over the next couple of months.
- ▶ If you are interested in being one of the 6 states, please let me know – we will be pick a representative group of states, based on financing structure.

▶ THANKS



Contact Information

Kathy Talkington

ktalkington@astho.org

571-522-2313

