

Mental Health Parity Legislation Becomes Law

The National League of Cities reports that the recent Economic Rescue Plan legislation also included the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. The law, which NLC supported, requires all group health plans – whether self-insured or not, or sponsored by the public or private sectors – provide the same coverage for medical/surgical and mental health services, if the group health plan is governed by Section 712 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974, Section 2705 of the Public Health Service Act, or Section 9812 of the Internal Revenue Code. Congress decided to require that coverage for all types of health services be the same, rather than mandate minimum coverage. Group health plans are expected to implement the new benefit requirements on or before the first day of the new plan year beginning after October 3, 2009.

[Back To Story Page](#)