



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

January 5, 2010

CKF Coalition Update

Please join us for the **CKF Quarterly Coalition** meeting to be held on **Wednesday, January 13, 2009 from 10:00am – noon** at the **Young Americans Center for Financial Education**, 3550 East First Avenue in Denver. An agenda will be emailed to the Coalition this week.

*Conference call will be available at 1-866-453-5550 pin number: 2228909.

The next **CKF Agency Partners Work Group** meeting will be **Friday, January 22, 2010 from 9-10:30am** at our office at 600 Grant Street, Suite 800 in Denver. A reminder and agenda will be emailed to the Work Group prior to the meeting. Please contact Christy Trimmer, CKF Community Liaison and Policy Analyst for more information (christy@cchn.org).

The next **CKF Health Policy Work Group** is meeting on **Thursday, February 18, 2010 from 9-10:00am** at CCHN, located at 600 Grant Street, Suite 800 in Denver. A reminder and agenda will be emailed to Work Group members prior to the meeting. Please contact Brittney Petersen, CKF Project Manager for more information (brittney@cchn.org).

Check our website (www.cchn.org/ckf/) for the 2010 CKF meeting calendar.

Outreach and Enrollment Update

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Announces Outreach Conferences

Save the date: the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is planning regional outreach conferences in February and March 2010 for organizations interested in better assisting Coloradans with applying for public health insurance. There will be a separate training for CBMS users in spring 2010.

Conference dates:

- February 1 and 2 – Durango
- February 3 and 4 – Alamosa
- February 18 and 19 – Denver
- February 24 and 25 – Grand Junction
- March 3 and 4 – Lamar
- March 17 and 18 – Greeley
- March 30 and 31 – Colorado Springs

****Specific locations to be determined**

Click [here](#) for information on conference topics. Email outreach@hcpf.state.co.us with questions. Stay tuned to the “what’s new” section of the HCPF website, www.colorado.gov/hcpf for more information. CKF will provide updates with additional details as they are made available.

Maximizing Medicaid/CHP+ Outreach, Enrollment and Retention Grants

In fall 2009, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing was awarded a 5-year, \$43 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to fund the Colorado Comprehensive Health Access Modernization Program or [CO-CHAMP](#). A portion of CO-CHAMP funding will be used to implement the Maximizing Outreach, Retention and Enrollment (MORE) Grant Program to design,



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

January 5, 2010

develop, and implement outreach for Medicaid and CHP+ expansion populations identified in the [Health Care Affordability Act](#).

The focus for the first year of funding is to provide outreach, enrollment and/or application assistance to enroll children and pregnant women qualifying for CHP+ up to 250% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and low-income parents qualifying for Medicaid up to 100% of the FPL. The first year of funding for the MORE Grant Program is \$690,000, with up to \$100,000 available for individual grants. If you are interested in applying for MORE Grant Program funding, please watch the “what’s new” section of the HCPF website, www.colorado.gov/hcpf for the application. CKF will provide updates with additional details as they are made available. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Rieder at carol.rieder@state.co.us.

School-Based Grant Opportunity from The Colorado Health Foundation

The Colorado Health Foundation (TCHF) seeks to fund two-year grants to create partnerships between school districts and county departments of human/social services or other state-designated medical assistance sites. To apply, please use TCHF’s [online grant application](#). The next grant proposal deadlines are January 15 and April 15. Please contact Amy Latham at ALatham@ColoradoHealth.org with questions.

Webinar Now Available for Phase 1 of Colorado PEAK

Colorado PEAK (Program Eligibility and Application Kit) is the new online tool that enables applicants to screen to see if they are potentially eligible for Family Medicaid, CHP+, food or cash assistance programs, and for current clients to check the status of their benefits and redetermination date. There is now a webinar available that explains how to use these functions. The web address for PEAK is www.colorado.gov/benefits, and the webinar is found at the “see how it works” link on the right side of the page. Applicants will be able to apply for medical, cash and food assistance benefits online using PEAK when phase 2 is implemented in spring 2010.

List of Certified Application Assistance and Presumptive Eligibility Sites Updated

The list of organizations that are certified application assistance and presumptive eligibility sites has been updated and can be found [here](#).

Health Policy Update

Health Care Reform Update

The Senate passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on December 24, 2009. The bill proposes to expand Medicaid to 133% FPL for adults and children, extend CHIP to 2019 (with funding through 2015), impose an individual mandate and employer requirements, create state-based exchanges to purchase coverage, and offer subsidies to help low-income families purchase health insurance in an exchange.

The House bill, called the Affordable Health Care for America Act, passed at the beginning of November, proposes to expand Medicaid to 150% of the federal poverty level (FPL) for adults and children and terminate CHIP on 12/31/13 (children would be moved into Medicaid, exchange plans, or employer-based coverage depending on income). In addition, the bill would impose an individual mandate and employer requirements, create an exchange to purchase coverage, and offer subsidies to help low-income families



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

January 5, 2010

purchase health insurance in the exchange.

Next steps in the coming months are for a conference committee to work together to merge the House and the Senate bills. The merged bill must then pass both the Senate and House before being sent to the President. For more information, including summaries and side-by-side comparisons of the bills, please visit the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) and the [Georgetown Center for Children and Families](#).

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA): On December 11, 2009, the Medical Services Board heard and temporarily adopted a revised rule regarding new CHIPRA citizenship documentation requirements for CHP+. The Medicaid citizenship documentation requirements now apply to CHP+ applicants beginning January 1, 2010. In February, the Board will vote to permanently adopt the revised rule. CKF will share more information, including an estimated release of an agency letter, as soon as it becomes available.

Events and Resources

2010 Policy Summit: Building Momentum

The Colorado Multi-Ethnic Cultural Consortium is hosting a 2010 Policy Summit: Building Momentum on Friday, January 15 from 8:30am-3:00pm at the University of Denver. This conference provides a forum for participants to engage with other policymakers and advocates across the state, identifying solutions and building a shared policy agenda to better meet the health care needs of communities of color. For additional information, click [here](#).

More Colorado Household Survey Briefs Available

The Colorado Health Institute has published several issue briefs from the Colorado Household Survey. The briefs include an overview of uninsured Coloradans, a regional profile of Colorado's uninsured population, a profile of Coloradans affected by an individual mandate, and relationship between insurance coverage and access to care. All four briefs are available [here](#).

New Online Resource for Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Systems Changes

Colorado LINKS for Mental Health is pleased to announce the launch of a new website: The Repository for Systems Transformation (ReST), available at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ps/ips/ReST/index.html>. ReST is a new website with over 180 toolkits, templates, best practices, and other resources organized to help your community, from planning to implementation to evaluation of system changes. These resources are widely applicable, regardless of your organization's specific focus.

Jobs

The **Colorado Community Health Network** is hiring a **Clinical Programs Manager**. Application deadline is January 10, 2010. For more information and the job description, please click [here](#).

The **Department of Health Care Policy and Financing** is hiring staff to implement the CO-CHAMP grant and Medicaid and CHP+ expansions from the Health Care Affordability Act. If interested, please frequently check the [state employment website](#) for job postings.