



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

Covering Kids and Families • Monthly Outreach and Enrollment Update

Notes from the February 27, 2009 Agency Partners Work Group Meeting and Other News

State Outreach Update: The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing hired a new staff person, Tonya Bruno, to provide Certified Application Assistance Site training and database maintenance. Tonya will also provide technical assistance to the Colorado Trust's outreach grantees. In addition, Sarah Roberts and Whitney Ice staff the external training unit.

The Department will post the Enrollment Fair Mini-Grant Program recipients on their web site on March 2, 2009. Through a competitive proposal process, the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved (CCMU) Kids Blitz project was selected to create a resource manual on how to conduct a successful enrollment fair. Once complete, the Department will post the manual on their web site. The Department plans to host a daylong kick-off event for Mini-Grant recipients in mid-March. Staff will walk through the resource manual and answer questions. Tonya Bruno will be available in the afternoon for Certified Application Assistance Site training.

The \$1.3 million dedicated to outreach is still available for fiscal year 2009. The Department returned \$600,000 of the \$1.4 million additional outreach dollars to the state. The Department will spend the remaining \$800,000 on technical assistance, the Enrollment Fair Mini-Grant Program, Certified Application Assistance stamps for every certified site, Certified Application Assistance Site training, joint application revision, Spanish translation of the Single Purpose Application (SPA) for public benefits and the CHP+ HMO insert in the joint application, and statewide regional training conferences to be held in the coming months. The Department sent out a needs assessment survey to counties, community based organizations, and others that provide enrollment services to help develop training conference agendas. **CKF encourages partners to complete this survey since your input is important to developing appropriate trainings. If you did not receive the survey, please contact Carol Rieder at carol.rieder@state.co.us.** The Department's base funding for next fiscal year is \$1.3 million. As a result, the Department is not renewing the Maximus contract and bringing all outreach activities in house. No details have been determined, but the Department is considering a new model that blends Medicaid and CHP+ outreach.

New SCHIP Law – Overview and What it Means for Colorado:

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA): On February 4, 2009 President Obama signed into law the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. The law extends the CHIP program for 4 ½ more years, April 1, 2009-September 30, 2013. It ensures that the 7 million children currently covered by CHIP continue to be covered and 4 million more children who are currently uninsured are eligible. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 83% of the children who will acquire coverage through this new law will be eligible under existing guidelines. The law provides funding for expansion and tools for states to reach children who are eligible but not enrolled. Provisions go into effect at staggered times, beginning immediately through two years from now. CMS must issue guidance for many of the law's provisions in order for states to move forward.

Below is a summary of provisions in CHIPRA. Please note that Colorado, along with the other states, will need to modify their policies (laws and regulations) to comply with the required components and determine whether to implement the optional components. **Colorado's**



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Medicaid and CHP+ policies remain the same until the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) makes changes to reflect the new CHIPRA provisions. CKF will keep you posted on any changes to the current Medicaid/CHP+ policies when they occur.

Citizen Documentation Requirements

For States to Make Effective Immediately:

- States must provide benefits to individuals who meet other eligibility requirements while gathering citizenship documents.
- Newborns whose birth was paid for by Medicaid no longer need to prove their citizenship after one year of eligibility ends.
- States must accept certain tribal documents to establish citizenship.

Other changes States Must Make Effective January 1, 2010:

- DRA documentation requirements will apply to CHIP.
- States have the option to work with the Social Security Administration to set up electronic exchange to verify identity and citizenship.

Fiscal Incentives to reach eligible but not enrolled

In order to qualify for bonus funding, states must adopt five of eight performance measures and reach specific enrollment targets to receive additional federal dollars. CMS needs to issue specific guidance to help states determine their current performance related to the measures listed below.

Performance Measure	Colorado Status
Adopt 12 month continuous eligibility	In place for CHP+ only. If passed, the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act (HB 1293) would implement 12-month continuous eligibility for Medicaid
Eliminate asset test for children	CHP+: YES Medicaid: YES
Eliminate in-person interview at application and renewal	Face-to-face interview not required in Colorado
Use joint application and same application and renewal procedure for both Medicaid and SCHIP	Joint application: Yes Need clarification on application and renewal procedure
Allow for administrative or paperless verification at renewal through pre-populated forms or <i>ex parte</i> determinations	Ex parte renewal regulation for Medicaid passed in Colorado in January 2009 is being implemented. SB08 161 addresses this requirement, but is not yet implemented. HB09-1020 (currently being proposed at legislature) authorizes HCPF to allow for phone and online renewal for Medicaid and CHP+
Presumptive eligibility for children	YES
Implement Express Lane Eligibility	Past pilot programs incorporated parts of this strategy – good starting point for Colorado
Implement available options regarding premium assistance	Colorado's CHP+ at Work program



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- **Benefits package must include dental coverage** starting October 1, 2009.
- **Mental health parity:** If a state provides mental health services through CHIP, the benefits must not be more restrictive than the medical or surgical benefits.
- **States can increase eligibility levels to cover more children:** CHIPRA repeals the August 17, 2007 act that limits state flexibility to set income eligibility level. CMS will reimburse at the lower Medicaid match for any expansion over 300%.
- **Eliminates coverage of parents and childless adults** (no impact in Colorado since CHP+ does not cover these populations).
- **\$100 million for outreach for 2009-2013.**
- **States have the option to** (starting April 1, 2009):
 - Cover “lawfully residing immigrant children and pregnant women.” States can abolish the five-year waiting period currently in place for legal immigrant children and pregnant women.
 - Cover pregnant women with CHIP dollars without waivers.
 - Provide dental only coverage or cost sharing dental coverage to children with other group or employee sponsored health insurance.
 - Establish premium assistance programs.

CHIPRA includes many other provisions that are not highlighted above. For a more detailed summary, please visit the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families at <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/>.

Updates and Information Sharing:

- Cover the Uninsured Week (CTUW) is March 22-28, 2009. Maria Zubia (mdzubia@adams14.org) has information on a CTUW enrollment fair if your organization would like to be involved. To learn more about CTUW or to organize a CTUW event in your community, please go to <http://covertheuninsured.org/>.
- New Federal Poverty Guidelines go into effect on April 1, 2009. Please update your flyers and other resources accordingly. HCPF and CHP+ will post updated income guideline charts in the coming weeks.
- The Denver Outreach Group meets the second Tuesday of every month from 9-10:30am at CCHN (600 Grant Street, Suite 800). All partners are welcome to participate. Contact Rob Hendershot from Denver Public Schools Medicaid Department at Rob_Hendershot@dpsk12.org for more information.

Next Meeting

The next Agency Partner Work Group Meeting is March 27, 2009 from 9-10:30 at CCHN (600 Grant Street, Suite 800) in the big conference room. Phone participation will be available.