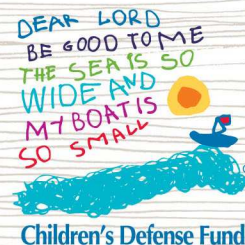


Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: Alabama

October 2009



All Children Need Health Coverage that is Affordable, Comprehensive, and Simple.

Health Coverage for Alabama's Children:

- 78,000 children are uninsured (6.6% of all children).*
- 471,846 children are enrolled in Medicaid.**
- 110,821 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).***

How affordable is health coverage for Alabama's Children?†

- CHIP eligibility is up to 300 percent of poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four).
- Medicaid eligibility is 133 percent of poverty (\$29,327) for children 0-5, and 100 percent of poverty (\$22,050) for children 6-19.

CHIP and Medicaid Enrollment Procedures for Alabama's Children:

- Simplification procedures:
 - 12-month continuous eligibility
 - Administrative verification of income for children in CHIP
 - No face-to-face interview
 - No asset test
 - Joint application
- Barriers that remain:
 - No presumptive eligibility—which forces children to wait until their application is processed before they can see a doctor
 - No administrative verification of income for children in Medicaid—the state requires parents to provide proof of income before a child can get health coverage
 - 90 day waiting period

*Despite difficult economic times, **Alabama was one of 23 states that took steps to improve health coverage for children in the last year.** In 2009, Alabama expanded CHIP eligibility from 200 to 300 percent of poverty. ‡*

Call your Member of Congress and tell them: *Health reform needs to make sure that ALL children in Alabama and America have health coverage that is affordable, comprehensive, and simple. A pound sign (#) designates Members who serve on one or more of the committees that developed the health reform bills being considered in the House and Senate.*

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^{*} U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 2007, 2008, and 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC); and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "State Single Year of Age and Sex Population Estimates: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008 - RESIDENT," at <<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/files/SC-EST2008-AGESEX-RES.csv>> . Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

^{**} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, FY2006 Medicaid Statistical Information System, at <http://msis.cms.hhs.gov/>, accessed June 5, 2009. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

^{***} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, SCHIP Statistical Enrollment Data System, January 20, 2009, at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCHIPPolicy/downloads/FY2008StateTotalTable012309FINAL.pdf>, accessed June 2, 2009. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

[†] Georgetown Center for Children and Families; "State Snapshot—Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Levels and Enrollment and Renewal Procedures." <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/index/cms-filesystem-action?file=statistics/snapshot.pdf>, accessed October 12, 2009.

[‡] Georgetown Center for Children and Families; "Weathering the Storm: States Move Forward on Child and Family Health Coverage Despite Tough Economic Climate." September 2009. [http://ccf.georgetown.edu/index/cms-filesystem-action?file=ccf publications/health reform/weathering the storm.pdf](http://ccf.georgetown.edu/index/cms-filesystem-action?file=ccf%20publications/health%20reform/weathering%20the%20storm.pdf), accessed October 1, 2009.