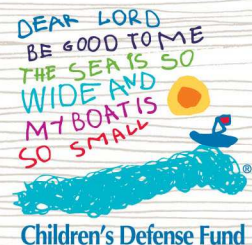


Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: Florida

October 2009



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

Health Coverage for Florida's Children:

- 795,000 children are uninsured (18.7% of all children). *
- 1,643,400 children are enrolled in Medicaid. **
- 354,385 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). ***

How affordable is health coverage for Florida's children? †

- CHIP eligibility is up to 200 percent of poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four).
- Medicaid eligibility is 200 percent of poverty for children 0-1, 133 percent of poverty (\$29,327) for children 1-5, and 100 percent of poverty (\$22,050) for children 6-19.

How simple are enrollment procedures in CHIP and Medicaid for Florida's children?

- Simplification procedures:
 - 12-month continuous eligibility for children in CHIP
 - No face-to-face interview
 - No asset test
 - Joint application
 - Administrative verification of income at enrollment
- Barriers that remain:
 - No 12-month continuous eligibility for children in Medicaid
 - 60 day waiting period
 - No presumptive eligibility—which forces children to wait until their application is processed before they can see a doctor
 - No administrative verification of income at renewal for children in CHIP

Despite difficult economic times, Florida was one of 23 states that took steps to improve health coverage for children in the last year. In 2009, Florida took significant steps towards streamlining Medicaid/CHIP enrollment by allowing for electronic verification of income, reducing the amount of time an applicant must be uninsured before enrolling, and reducing the disenrollment penalty for non-payment of premiums. ‡

Call your Member of Congress and tell them: *Health reform needs to make sure that ALL children in Florida 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, accessed October 1, 2009.