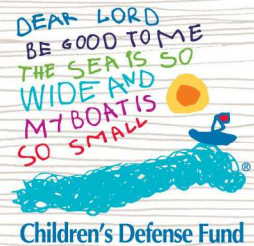


# Children's Defense Fund

## Health Coverage for All Children: Louisiana

October 2009



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

#### Health Coverage for Louisiana's Children:

- 160,000 children are uninsured (13.5% of all children).\*
- 623,944 children are enrolled in Medicaid.\*\*
- 147,863 children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).\*\*\*

#### How affordable is health coverage for Louisiana's children?†

- CHIP eligibility is up to 250 percent of poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four).
- Medicaid eligibility is 200 percent of poverty (\$44,100) for children 0-19.

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

- Simplification procedures:
  - 12-month continuous eligibility
  - Administrative verification of income
  - No face-to-face interview
  - No asset test
  - Joint application
- Barriers that remain:
  - 12-month waiting period for children in families between 200 and 250 percent of poverty.
  - Presumptive eligibility has been enacted, but not implemented.

#### Do children in Louisiana's CHIP program receive the same comprehensive benefits as children in Medicaid?

- Yes. Louisiana is one of 13 states (plus the District of Columbia) that has used CHIP funding to cover all children eligible for CHIP and Medicaid under one program. As a result, children in CHIP in these states receive the same comprehensive health and mental health coverage (through the Early and Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit) that all children in Medicaid receive.

*Despite difficult economic times, Louisiana was one of 23 states that took steps to improve health coverage for children in the last year. In 2009, Louisiana adopted plans to implement Express Lane Eligibility by automating renewals for children who have an active food stamp case.‡*

**Call your Member of Congress and tell them:** *Health reform needs to make sure that ALL children in Louisiana 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.*

**Senator Mary Landrieu (D)**

Washington DC: (202) 224-5824  
Baton Rouge Office: (225) 389-0395  
Lake Charles Office: (337) 436-6650  
New Orleans Office: (504) 589-2427  
Shreveport Office: (318) 676-3085

**Representative Rodney Alexander (R)**

Washington DC: (202) 225-8490  
Alexandria Office: (318) 445-0818  
Monroe Office: (318) 322-3500

**Representative Joseph Cao (R)**

Washington DC: (202) 225-6636  
New Orleans Office: (504) 589-2274

**Representative John Fleming (R)**

Washington DC: 202-225-2777  
Shreveport Office: (318) 798-2254

**Representative Steve Scalise (R) #**

Washington DC: (202) 225-3015  
Mandeville Office: (985) 893-9064  
Metairie Office: (504) 837-1259  
Hammond Office: (985) 340-2185

**Senator David Vitter (R)**

Washington DC: (202) 224-4623  
Alexandria Office: (318) 448-0169  
Baton Rouge: (225) 383-0331  
Lafayette Office: (337) 262-6898  
Metairie Office: (504) 589-2753  
Monroe Office: (318) 325-8120  
Shreveport Office: (318) 861-0437  
Lake Charles: (337) 436-0453

**Representative Charles Boustany Jr. (R)**

Washington DC: (202) 225-2031  
Lafayette Office: (337) 235-6322  
Lake Charles Office: (337) 433-1747

**Representative William Cassidy (R) #**

Washington DC: 202-225-3901  
Baton Rouge Office: (225) 929-7711

**Representative Charles Melancon (D) #**

Washington DC: (202) 225-4031  
Gonzales Office: (225) 621-8490  
New Iberia Office: (337) 367-8231  
Chalmette Office: (504) 271-1707  
Houma Office: (985) 876-3033

---

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

<sup>\*\*</sup> 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.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> 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.

<sup>†</sup> 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.

<sup>‡</sup> 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_publications/health_reform/weathering_the_storm.pdf), accessed October 1, 2009.