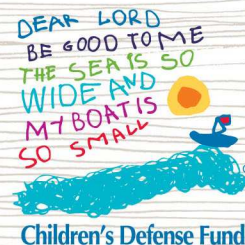


# Children's Defense Fund

## Health Coverage for All Children: Montana

November 2009



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

### Health Coverage for Montana's Children:

- 30,000 children are uninsured (13% of all children).\*
- 62,110 children are enrolled in Medicaid.\*\*
- 22,679 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).\*\*\*

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

- Healthy Montana Kids (HMK), formerly known as CHIP, extends eligibility up to 250 percent of poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four).
- HMK *Plus* (formerly children's Medicaid) eligibility is up to 133 percent of poverty (\$29,327) for children 0-19.

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

- Simplification procedures:
  - Single HMK application
  - 12-month continuous eligibility for children in HMK and HMK *Plus*
  - No Asset Test
  - No face-to-face interview
- Barriers that remain:
  - No presumptive eligibility—which forces children to wait until their application is processed before they can see a doctor.
  - Applicants must provide proof of income for children in Medicaid.
  - Applicants must provide proof of citizenship for children not born in Montana.
  - Children must be uninsured for three months prior to being enrolled in HMK (No uninsured period for children enrolled in HMK *Plus*).

*Despite difficult economic times, **Montana was one of 23 states that took steps to improve health coverage for children in the last year.** In 2008, Montana voters passed the Healthy Montana Kids Initiative, which expanded health coverage to an additional 29,000 children by raising Medicaid eligibility to 133 percent of FPL, and CHIP eligibility from 175 to 250 percent FPL.‡ The new combined program is called the Healthy Montana Kids Plan.*

**Call your Member of Congress and tell them:** *Health reform needs to make sure that ALL children in Montana 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 Max Baucus (D) #**

Washington DC: (202) 224-2651  
Billings Office: (406) 657-6790  
Bozeman Office: (406) 586-6104  
Butte Office: (406) 782-8700  
Great Falls Office: (406) 452-1574  
Helena Office: (406) 449-5480  
Kalispell Office: (406) 756-1150  
Missoula Office: (406) 329-3123

**Representative Dennis Rehberg (R)**

Washington DC: (202) 225-3211  
Billings Office: (406) 256-1019  
Missoula Office: (406) 543-9550  
Helena Office: (406) 443-7878  
Great Falls Office: (406) 454-1066

**Senator Jon Tester (R)**

Washington DC: (202) 224-2644  
Billings Office: (406) 252-0550  
Bozeman Office: (406) 586-4450  
Butte Office: (406) 723-3277  
Glendive Office: (406) 365-2391  
Great Falls Office: (406) 452-9585  
Helena Office: (406) 449-5401  
Kalispell Office: (406) 257-3360  
Missoula Office: (406) 728-3003  
Toll-Free: 1-866-554-4403

---

<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%20publications/health%20reform/weathering%20the%20storm.pdf), accessed October 1, 2009.