



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

### Health Coverage for New Jersey's Children:

- 274,000 children are uninsured (12.6% of all children). \*
- 503,525 children are enrolled in Medicaid. \*\*
- 151,805 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). \*\*\*

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

- CHIP eligibility is up to 350 percent of poverty (\$77,175 for a family of four).
- Medicaid eligibility is 200 percent of poverty (\$44,100) for children 0-1, 133 percent of poverty (\$29,327) for children 1-19.

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

- Simplification procedures:
  - 12-month continuous eligibility
  - No face-to-face interview
  - No asset test
  - Presumptive eligibility—which allows children to see a doctor while their application is still being processed
  - Joint application
- Barriers that remain:
  - 3 month waiting period
  - No administrative verification of income—the state requires parents to provide proof of income before a child can get health coverage

*Despite difficult economic times, New Jersey was one of 23 states that took steps to improve health coverage for children in the last year. In 2009, New Jersey eliminated Medicaid and CHIP premiums for children in families earning between 150 and 200 percent of poverty, and began sending out a one-page express lane applications for Medicaid and CHIP to families who indicated on their tax returns that they have uninsured children at home. ‡*

**Call your Member of Congress and tell them:** *Health reform needs to make sure that ALL children in New Jersey 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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<sup>1</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>2</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>3</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>4</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>5</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.