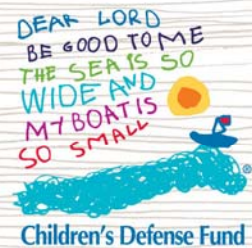


Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: South Carolina



October 2009

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

Health Coverage for South Carolina's Children:

- 148,000 children are uninsured (13.1% of all children).*
- 458,348 children are enrolled in Medicaid.**
- 73,620 children are in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).***

How affordable is health coverage for South Carolina's children?†

- CHIP eligibility is up to 200 percent of poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)
- Medicaid eligibility is 185 percent of poverty (\$40,793) for children 0-1, and 150 percent of poverty (\$33,075) for children 1-19.

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

- Simplification procedures:
 - 12-month continuous eligibility
 - No face-to-face interview
 - No waiting period for children in Medicaid
 - Joint application
- Barriers that remain:
 - \$30,000 asset test
 - 3 – month waiting period for children in CHIP
 - No presumptive eligibility—which forces children to wait until their application is processed before they can see a doctor
 - No administrative verification of income—the state requires parents to provide proof of income before a child can get health coverage

Do children in South Carolina's CHIP program receive the same comprehensive benefits as children in Medicaid?

- Yes. South Carolina 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.

Call your Member of Congress and tell them: *Health reform needs to make sure that ALL children in South Carolina 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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Midlands (803) 933-0112
Pee Dee (843) 669-1505
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Representative James Clyburn (D)

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Representative Bob Inglis (R)

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Representative Joe Wilson (R)[#]

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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.