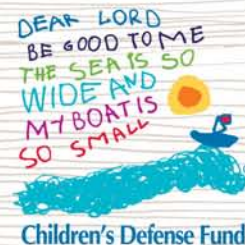


# Children's Defense Fund

## Health Coverage for All Children: Louisiana

February 2011



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

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

- 131,000 children are uninsured (11.0% of all children). \*
- 716,215 children are enrolled in Medicaid.\*\*
- 157,012 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 (\$55,875 for a family of four).
- Medicaid eligibility is 133 percent of poverty (\$29,726) for children 0-5 and 100 percent of poverty (22,350) for children 6-19.

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

- Simplification procedures:
  - Presumptive eligibility
  - 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.

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

- Yes. Louisiana is one of 14 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.

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<sup>\*</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau 2008, 2009, 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS); Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single-Year of age Sex for the United States and States, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009, at <<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/files/SC-EST2009-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: Medicaid Statistical Information System, at <http://msis.cms.hhs.gov/>, accessed January 19, 2011. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund, 1/11.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CHIP Statistical Enrollment Data Systems (SEDS) forms CMS21E, CMS-64, 21E, CMS-21waiver, October 26, 2010. 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-file-system-action?file=statistics/snapshot.pdf>, accessed January 1, 2011.