

Children's Health Coverage: States Moving Forward

(Updated July 20, 2007)

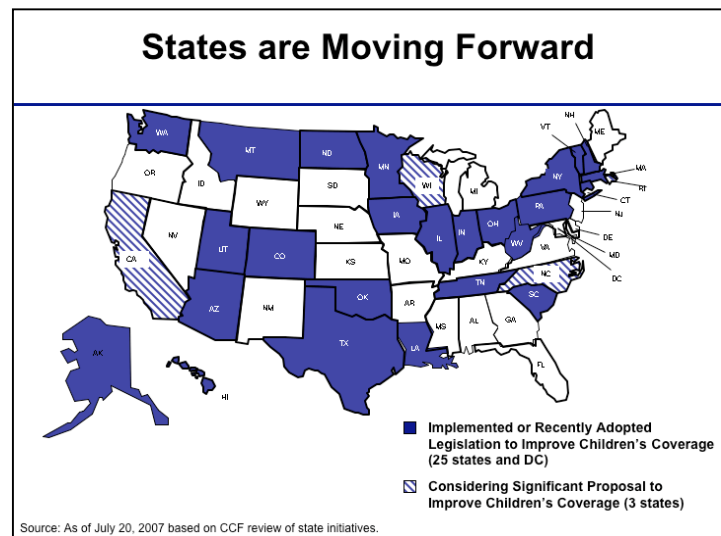
Building on SCHIP and Medicaid, state policymakers across the country, representing a diverse set of states and ideologies, are investing in new efforts to make health coverage available to more children in their states. With children's coverage a clear national priority, SCHIP reauthorization presents federal lawmakers with the opportunity to renew and strengthen the federal commitment to moving forward and to support this unprecedented level of state activity on behalf of children.

In a report released this spring, the Center for Children and Families (CCF) conducted a nationwide review of state efforts to provide health care coverage to uninsured children. The report, titled "States Moving Forward," focused on legislation adopted between January 2006 and mid-April 2007, as well as on proposals under serious consideration as of mid-April 2007. In this update, CCF reports on the status of these proposals as of July 20, 2007.

Key Findings

Between January 2006 and mid-July 2007, more than half of all states took action to expand coverage for children. In general, they did so by adopting new efforts to reach uninsured children already eligible for SCHIP and Medicaid, by further expanding eligibility for child health coverage, or by adopting a combination of both strategies. Of particular note:

- Twenty-five states and the District of Columbia adopted legislation that would cover more children through Medicaid and SCHIP; three more states are still seriously considering legislation to cover more children.
- Child health expansions have been enacted in all regions of the country, including urban and rural areas and in states with leadership on both sides of the political aisle.



- Twenty-three states and the District of Columbia now have SCHIP or Medicaid eligibility levels that are above 200 percent of the federal poverty level, allowing more families to afford health care coverage for their children. Families at these more modest income levels pay premiums to help cover the costs. An additional nineteen states have set SCHIP coverage for children at 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

**State Child Health Initiatives, Adopted or Under Serious Consideration
January 2006 – July 13, 2007**

State	Child Health Initiative		Status	Income Eligibility Levels (for states that expanded eligibility)	
	Eligibility Expansion	Simplification/ Outreach		Before	After
Alaska	x		Enacted	154%	175%
Arizona		x	Enacted	n/a	n/a
California	x	x	Pending	250%	300%
Colorado	x	x	Enacted	200%	205%
Connecticut		x	Enacted	n/a	n/a
District of Columbia	x		Enacted	200%	300%
Hawaii	x	x	Expansion implemented; Simplification/outreach awaiting Governor's signature.	200%	300%
Illinois	x	x	Implemented	200%	None
Indiana	x	x	Enacted	200%	300%
Iowa		x	Enacted	n/a	n/a
Louisiana	x	x	Enacted	200%	300%
Massachusetts	x	x	Implemented	200%	300%
Minnesota		x	Enacted	n/a	n/a
Montana	x		Enacted	150%	175%
New Hampshire		x	Enacted	n/a	n/a
New York	x	x	Enacted	250%	400%
North Carolina	x		Pending	200%	300%
North Dakota	x	x	Enacted	140%	150%
Ohio	x		Enacted	200%	300%
Oklahoma	x		Enacted	185%	300%
Pennsylvania	x		Implemented	200%	300%
South Carolina	x		Enacted	150%	200%
Tennessee	x	x	Implemented	¹	250%
Texas		x	Enacted	n/a	n/a
Utah		x	Enacted	n/a	n/a
Vermont		x	Implemented	n/a	n/a
Washington	x	x	Enacted	250%	300%
West Virginia	x		Enacted	220%	300%
Wisconsin	x	x	Pending	185%	300%

¹ Tennessee previously covered children under TennCare with incomes up to 250% FPL. In 2005, new applications were no longer accepted for children above the mandatory Medicaid levels (185% for children 0-1, 133% for children 1-5 and 100% for children 6-18).