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Center for Children and Families Launches - Efforts Focus on Improving Health of America's Low and Moderate Income Children and Families

Washington, D.C. – Amid high-profile debate on the future of Medicaid, the new Center for Children and Families (CCF) launched today. CCF is uniquely focused on developing and disseminating research, strategies and ideas to improve the health of America's low- and moderate-income children and families.

The goal of providing all children with health insurance has traditionally enjoyed strong bipartisan support at the federal and state levels; in recent years much progress has been made in reducing the number of uninsured children. CCF will release issue briefs and reports and conduct topical briefings designed to provide information and analysis of coverage issues, with an emphasis on ways to close the insurance gap for children and their families.

CCF will address issues such as potential changes to Medicaid precipitated by recent and ongoing Congressional action; and state actions, including coverage innovations in Maine, recent Medicaid cutbacks in Missouri and Tennessee, and the proposed Medicaid overhaul in Florida.

“The stakes are high for children and families across the nation,” stated CCF Executive Director Cindy Mann. “Medicaid is at the center of the current debate, but too often that debate occurs without all of the facts or knowledge of promising approaches for coverage.” CCF will not only help shed light on these important issues, but will work with others to achieve real solutions for children and families.

ABOUT CCF: The independent, nonpartisan Center for Children and Families was launched on May 5, 2005. CCF is led by experts in the area of publicly-financed health coverage, with extensive experience in policy analysis and program implementation at both the federal and state levels. Their body of work includes examinations of health coverage issue in states including Florida, California and Tennessee, in addition to analyses of the implications of federal proposals on Medicaid and SCHIP. CCF is based at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute.

ABOUT CCF STAFF: Cindy Mann, Executive Director of CCF, has experience in the public and non-profit sectors, having served as Director of Family and Children's Health Program Group at the Health Care Financing Administration (now the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services). Jocelyn Guyer and Joan Alker are CCF's Senior Program Directors. Guyer was most recently Associate Director of the Kaiser Commission; Alker has served as Associate Director of Government Affairs at Families USA. Lisa Dubay, CCF's Research and Policy Advisor, is a principal research associate at The Urban Institute.

For additional information about the Center for Children and Families please visit the CCF website at: www.ccfgeorgetown.org. **TO INTERVIEW CCF SENIOR STAFF PLEASE CONTACT Gina Russo at 202-687-0697 or grusso@ccfgeorgetown.org.**

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