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## National Covering Kids & Families Network Scoop

August 19, 2010

Hope you are enjoying the summer! Things have been quiet here in Washington as many people have escaped the intense summer heat by heading out of town; as a result, we've had a brief hiatus with the NCKFN Scoop. To get back into the swing of things, a few items that may be of interest to you including two new funding opportunities for states to implement health reform, some news on the extension of federal support for Medicaid (known by many as "FMAP"), and finally, a new resource on children and reform from the National Academy for State Health Policy

### Federal Funding Available to Support Health Reform

Tricia Brooks sent a note to the [listserve](#) a couple of weeks ago about the [new exchange planning grants](#) available to states from HHS. In addition to these grants, another new grant opportunity for states was announced to [establish independent, state-based health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman programs](#). \$30 million will be awarded to states to support these new program and applications are due September 10, 2010. To read more about both of these funding opportunities please go [here](#).

[President Signs Extension of Additional Federal Support for Medicaid](#) On August 11, President Obama signed an extension of aid to states to maintain their Medicaid programs amidst the ongoing economic crisis. We know this is a relief to many of you given that many state budgets that assumed these funds coming their way. To read more about the extension and how much your state will get, please [check out the CCF Blog, Say Ahhh!](#)

### [New Children's Health Insurance Page on the National Academy for State Health Policy \(NASHP\) Website](#)

NASHP's newly created [Children's Health Insurance Program page](#) combines the extensive material NASHP has produced about state CHIP programs and state initiatives to cover all children with new features and resources, including a section on Health Care Reform and Children. NASHP publications, web events and presentations

on children's coverage are also available, along with key resources from other organizations.

As always, please feel free to contact us—or your Network colleagues using the [listserve](#).

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The Center for Children and Families (CCF) is an independent, nonpartisan policy center based at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute whose mission is to expand and improve health coverage for America's children and families. Read more at [www.ccfgeorgetown.org](http://www.ccfgeorgetown.org) and check out our blog at [www.theccfblog.org](http://www.theccfblog.org)