

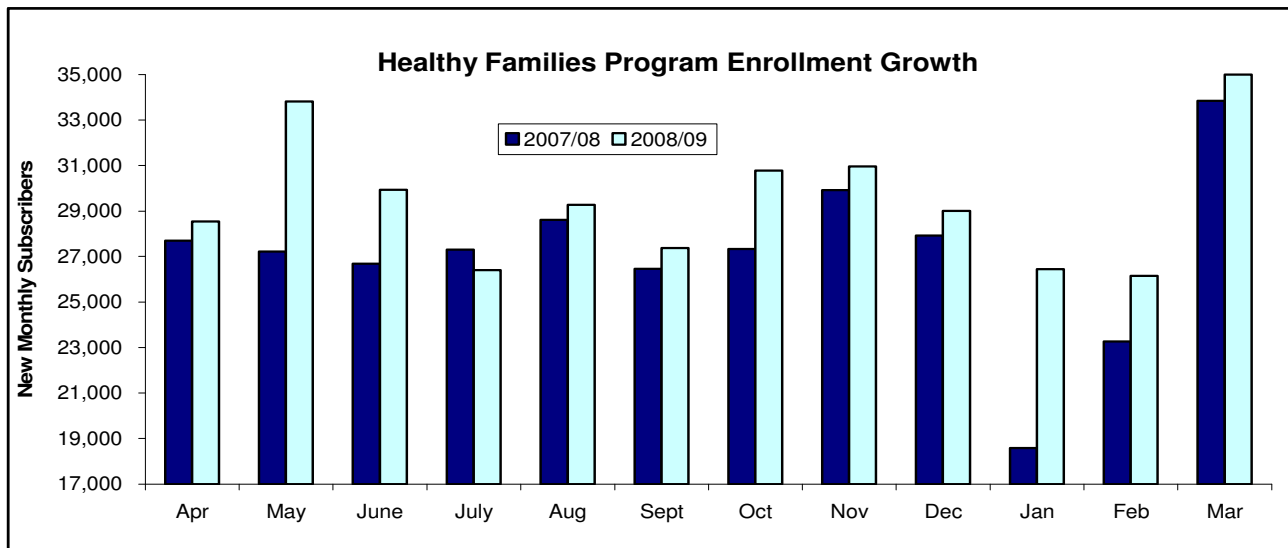


## California's Working Families Face Unprecedented Challenges

The current economic crisis means that more Californians than ever are turning to Medi-Cal and Healthy Families to cover their uninsured children. The UC Berkeley Labor Center estimates 300,000 California children lost employer-based coverage between November 2007 and February 2009. In these tough financial times, state elected officials must protect the health and well-being of our children.

## Funding for Healthy Families Must Keep Pace with Growing Enrollment

With the recession, the Healthy Families Program is experiencing a dramatic increase in enrollment. Nearly 35,000 children enrolled in Healthy Families coverage during March alone – the second highest monthly enrollment in the program's history. New enrollments over the last six months are up approximately 12% over the same period one year ago.



Last year, Healthy Families came to the brink of imposing waitlists for eligible applicants because of a \$17.2 million funding shortfall. Fortunately, state and local First Five commissions stepped in to fill the funding gap. The need has grown significantly since then and the Program cannot afford to face another potential wait list.

## New Federal Funding Makes Covering Uninsured Children a Double-Win

The new and improved federal Children's Health Insurance Program can help support the Healthy Families Program - up to \$1.5 billion this year alone - to help California cover uninsured children. However, if California does not step up and provide sufficient state money, federal funds will go to other states like Ohio and Wisconsin that have already committed to meeting this growing need. Covering uninsured children, therefore, is a win for California families hit hard by the recession and a chance for our legislature to claim our state's fair share of federal funds.

*The 100% Campaign, a collaborative effort of The Children's Partnership, Children Now and Children's Defense Fund, was created to ensure that all of California's children obtain the health insurance they need to grow up strong and healthy. [www.100percentcampaign.org](http://www.100percentcampaign.org)*

*The PICO California Project is the united effort of 20 California congregation-community organizations affiliated with the PICO National Network. Collectively, we represent 350 congregations and 400,000 families statewide and are actively organizing in over 70 cities in Northern and Southern California. [www.picocalifornia.org](http://www.picocalifornia.org)*

***Let's Continue Healthy Families' Proven Track Record of Success in California***

The Healthy Families Program currently provides health insurance coverage to over 900,000 children in our state who would otherwise be uninsured. Healthy Families coverage is cost-effective, offering lower administrative costs than private insurance and using health dollars wisely on preventive and maintenance care, instead of expensive emergency room care.

As enrollment continues at historic rates, we must avoid the damaging threat of a waitlist. It is imperative that the Legislature and the Governor ensure sufficient funding to cover the higher projection of enrollment in Healthy Families.

***The 100% Campaign and PICO California urge the Governor and State Legislature to fully fund the Healthy Families Program in the 2009-2010 budget***