

National Covering Kids & Families Network Scoop

October 8, 2010

In this week's NCKF Network Scoop, a few resources we hope you might find helpful and a reminder about our upcoming webinar.

Georgetown Center for Children and Families' FAQs on Child-Only Plans

Over the last couple of weeks there have been reports about some insurance carriers threatening to stop selling individual child-only health insurance plans or announcing that they were in fact, halting the sale of these plans. CCF released an <u>FAQs</u> about this topic last week that includes clarifying information about how many children this would affect, what policy options states may consider to address this and what some states are already doing to help make sure that coverage is available for the children who need these types of plans. We expect more information about this to emerge soon and will be sure to send it along in the next Scoop.

New State Health Official Letter on CHIPRA Performance Bonus

CMS recently issued three new letters with new or updated information for state officials on CHIP and/or Medicaid, including one on the process for states to apply for the CHIPRA performance bonuses. In these tough budget times, an opportunity to earn more federal dollars to support children's coverage through cutting red tape in Medicaid and CHIP to meet the growing demands of families seeking coverage should not be missed. Check out CCF's <u>blog on this new letter</u> and what states need to do take advantage of this opportunity. In the vein looking for commonsense solutions to cut red tape, you also may be interested in reading this <u>blog from Kansas</u> about some exciting new steps being taken there to simplify its program in the face of growing application backlogs.

Upcoming NCKF Network Webinar: October 25th; 3-4:30 PM

Please be sure to register for the next <u>National Covering Kids & Families Network</u> <u>webinar</u> featuring guest speakers Alison Betty from GMMB and Jenny Kenney from the Urban Institute. On the webinar, Alison will share some new messages they've developed based on recent focus groups with families and Jenny will share her new research that tells us more about who the eligible but unenrolled children are that may be helpful as you consider where to focus your outreach efforts.

As always, please feel free to contact us—or your Network colleagues using the <u>listserve</u>.

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 and check out our blog at www.theccfblog.org