
National Covering Kids & Families Network Scoop

November 17, 2010

In this week's NCKFN Scoop, more good news from CMS about assistance to states to support investments in IT, an upcoming webinar from NASHP you may find interesting, and a updated resource on online benefits for low-income families.

[HHS Announces Proposed New Rule to Support IT to Upgrade Medicaid Systems and Implement the Affordable Care Act](#)

CMS has proposed a new rule that would broaden the definition of "claims" to include "claims of eligibility" in regard to Medicaid management information systems. If the rule is adopted, this would mean that states would be eligible to receive a federal match of 90% to support the development, design testing and implementation of new or enhanced eligibility capacity through 2015. We've all heard the response of "the computer system can't do that" because so many of the IT systems states are currently using are decades old. This new proposed funding opportunity would give states the resources to move beyond that and move into the 21st century and be ready for 2014. Read CCF's blog about this announcement [here](#).

[NASHP Self-Assessment Webinar](#)

Tomorrow, November 19th, the National Academy for State Health Policy will host a webinar to unveil their new online self-assessment toolkit, which aims to help states identify the strengths and weaknesses in their current systems to enroll and retain children in Medicaid CHIP and highlights areas for improvements. Go [here](#) to register for the webinar.

[Online Information about Key Low-Income Benefit Programs](#)

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has updated their "Online Services for Key Low-Income Benefit Programs" paper. The paper includes links to state's inline information including policy manuals, applications, and basic program information for the five major benefit programs including Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, TANF and Child Care Assistance. Go [here](#) to find the report.

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

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