

## FEDERAL ISSUES

### **New CMS Guidance on CHIPRA Rules Regarding Coverage for Pregnant Women**

On May 11th the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released guidance on CHIPRA rules regarding coverage for Pregnant women. Under CHIPRA states will have the option to provide health care coverage for uninsured, low-income pregnant women including in most cases, benefit during a 60-day postpartum period. In order to be eligible to receive enhance Federal Medicaid Assistance Payment (FMAP) for such expenditures including providing presumptive eligibility to pregnant women, states must meet specific criteria. In order to adopt any of the options states must submit a CHIP plan amendment.



Further information regarding the guidance and the CHIP Plan amendment can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SMDL/SHO/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=0&sortByDID=1&sortOrder=descending&itemID=CMS1222493&intNumPerPage=10>

### **State Health Access Program (SHAP) Grants**

The State Health Access Program will provide \$75 million per year in grant funding for five years for states to provide the uninsured with access to affordable health insurance. The on-line application became available from the US Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on April 21, 2009. The deadline for applications is June 16, 2009, at 8 pm EDT and the project award date is September 15, 2009. Only one application may be submitted for each state or territory. Only the Governor (or Governor's designee) may apply for a grant. Grants will be awarded competitively to approximately 10 to 15 States that have a health care access program initiative ready to implement within 12 months of the grant start date. Enacted in the 2009 Congressional Appropriations Bill (PL 111-8), grants will total \$2-4 million for targeted groups of uninsured and \$7-10 million for larger states or more comprehensive initiatives.

To download the grant please click: <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/UpdateOffer?id=11736>

### **Expanding Health Care Coverage: Proposals to Provide Affordable Coverage to All Americans**

On May 11th the Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Ranking Member Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) released policy options for expanding health care coverage to the 46 million Americans who are currently uninsured. It provides the framework and lays out some of the options for health reform: expansion of public health programs, individual market reform and a health insurance

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## WHAT'S UP WITH THE NETWORK

### **NCKF LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE RETREAT UPDATE**

The National Covering Kids & Families Network's Leadership Committee convened for their annual retreat on April 13-14, 2009 in Chicago, IL. The retreat focused on various aspects of the Network such as identifying the Network's niche and increasing the visibility and credibility of the Network at the national level. Below is what was developed:

#### Who We Are

The National Covering Kids and Families Network plays a critical intermediary role between national, state, and local policymakers and consumers (community) by maximizing outreach, enrollment, retention, and utilization in health coverage programs.

#### How We Do Our Work

The National Covering Kids & Families Network is a diverse group of local and statewide coalitions that have implemented best practices to enroll and retain children and their families into public coverage programs. Specifically, we:

1. Provide technical assistance within the network and to policymakers based on best practices to strengthen and transform the capacity of states and communities.
2. Educate decision makers.
3. Offer a clearinghouse of resources.
4. Actively support the expansion of quality health care coverage.
5. Create greater public awareness about the issues.
6. Mobilize grassroots network of frontline providers and families.

Please let us know if you approve the above statement filling out the survey at the following link [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=FK13KtH42nkPw\\_2fOrc8wBvA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=FK13KtH42nkPw_2fOrc8wBvA_3d_3d)

### **CHIPRA WEBINAR A SUCCESS**

The NCKF Education Committee hosted a webinar on ***Partnering to Support CHIPRA Implementation: Maximizing Enrollment & Funding Opportunities to Cover Kids*** on April 20th, 2009. The teleconference's objectives were to identify enrollment and funding opportunities in CHIPRA; learn emerging implementation issues and what states are doing to respond to CHIPRA; and partner, share and maximize resources on CHIPRA implementation.

Over 60 individuals were in attendance. The presenters included Jenny Sullivan, Senior Health Policy Analyst, Families USA; Tricia Brooks, Senior Fellow, Georgetown University Center for Children and Families; and Catherine Hess, Senior Program Director, National Academy for State Health Policy. To access information shared during the call, please contact Michelle Wood, Policy Analyst, Community Health Councils at [michelle@chc-inc.org](mailto:michelle@chc-inc.org) or (323) 295-9372 ext. 225. Stay tuned for upcoming webinars.

### **WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBER TO THE NCKF NETWORK!**

Premier Community HealthCare Group, Inc. (Florida): <http://www.premierhc.org/>

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"exchange," required individual and employer contributions to health coverage, a public health insurance option, and much more. On May 14<sup>th</sup> the Finance leaders walked through the options at a Committee meeting to solicit thoughts and ideas from members on the options for expanding coverage. The final policy options paper on financing health care reform will be released before the members meeting on that topic scheduled for May 20th. Public comments on the coverage policy options will be accepted until May 22, 2009 and should be directed to [Health\\_Reform@finance-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Health_Reform@finance-dem.senate.gov).

The complete text of the policy options on expanding health care coverage can be found on the Finance Committee website at <http://finance.senate.gov/sitepages/leg/LEG%202009/051109%20Health%20Care%20Description%20of%20Policy%20Options.pdf>

### Media Opportunity

CBS Evening News is trying to put a story together regarding how CHIPRA will help families to get coverage. They are looking for a **family who may have just received coverage due to expansion efforts in a state as a result of CHIPRA or a family who does not currently have coverage but will**. We found out about this story after they have tried other avenues and are not sure if they want to proceed. However, if you have one or more such stories they may be willing to re-engage in producing this segment. Please contact Sonya Vasquez, Community Health Councils at [sonya@chc-inc.org](mailto:sonya@chc-inc.org) if you may have any stories to put you in contact with the Producer.



## COMMITTEES SIGN UP TODAY!

**Advocacy/Policy :** For those who want to get involved in advocacy activities around SCHIP and Medicaid rule changes, this is the committee to join! Contact Jodi Ray of the Lawton and Rhea Childs Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies at [jray@health.usf.edu](mailto:jray@health.usf.edu)

**Communications:** If you have creative talent and would like to write articles for the monthly newsletter, we are looking for writers and readers. Contact Kathy Chan with Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition via e-mail at [kchan@ilmaternal.org](mailto:kchan@ilmaternal.org).

**Education:** Conference planners and educators, join this committee! If you have a knack for planning educational teleconferences, contact David Roos of CKF Indiana at [droos@ckfindiana.org](mailto:droos@ckfindiana.org).

**Membership:** This committee is moving and shaking and increasing our membership. If you like talking to people, here is your chance! Contact Theresa Gavazzi with Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network at [tgavazzi@mothersandbabies.org](mailto:tgavazzi@mothersandbabies.org).

## RESOURCES

- Georgetown University Center for Children and Families Blog "Say Ahh" <http://www.theccfblog.org/>
- The Commonwealth Fund <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/>

**Do you have a story, member spotlight, best practice or resource that you would like to share?**

Please contact Kathy Chan at [kchan@ilmaternal.org](mailto:kchan@ilmaternal.org)

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