



Georgetown University Health Policy Institute

**Center for Children and Families**



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## National Covering Kids & Families Network Scoop

March 17, 2011

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Fittingly, a few items in today's Scoop that may make leave you feeling lucky including information about an upcoming call about the latest round of CHIPRA Outreach Grants, a new paper from the Children's Partnership about using cell phones to connect families to coverage, some new resources from the Kaiser Foundation about the value of Medicaid and last, but not least, a new paper from Families USA about the requirements in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for online applications.

### [CMS Outreach Grant Applicant Teleconference](#)

The third applicant's teleconference for the CHIPRA Cycle II outreach grants is scheduled for Thursday, March 24 from 4 to 5 p.m. Eastern Time. This teleconference is to address issues and questions from applicants interested in the CHIPRA Cycle II Grants –Area of Focus #1 “Using Technology to Facilitate Enrollment and Renewal.” Experts will be on hand to help you sort through your questions and details regarding technology. The call-in number is 1-877-267-1577 and the meeting ID is 8693. For more information about the grant opportunity including common questions and answers, please go [here](#).

### [Using Cell Phones to Connect Families to Coverage](#)

Despite efforts in recent years to enroll and retain children in health insurance, three out of four uninsured children remain eligible for, but not enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP. A new [issue brief](#) by The Children's Partnership outlines how cell phones can help families enroll and stay enrolled in health care coverage. Read a blog about the brief from author Beth Morrow [here](#).

### [New Resources on the Importance of Medicaid](#)

A [new presentation](#) from the Kaiser Foundation explains Medicaid's important role in the health system including enrollment and cost trends, discusses what federal Medicaid funds mean for job growth and the health of state economies, sets the record straight

about about Medicaid access and explains the costs and benefits of the Medicaid Expansion in the ACA. A [second piece](#) from the Kaiser Foundation is a fact sheet about Medicaid and it's role in state and federal budgets in health reform and why it's an important program for serving low-income beneficiaries and should be strengthened and expanded.

#### [What the ACA Says about Online Applications- New Resource from Families USA](#)

The ACA requires that all states have a single, streamlined online application (in addition to in-person, telephonic and mail-in paper applications) for Medicaid, CHIP, and the health insurance exchange premium credits by 2014, which will make it easier for beneficiaries to apply for and enroll in the most appropriate coverage for them. This [paper](#) from Families USA details the online application requirements in the ACA, looks at where some states are currently, and looks ahead to future implementation of online applications.

As always, please feel free to contact us—or your Network colleagues using the [listserv](#). Go [here](#) to see previous issues of the Scoop.

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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.

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