
National Covering Kids & Families Network Scoop

March 4, 2011

This week's Scoop includes information about new guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) about the stability protections (known as the maintenance of effort or MOE) in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), two reports about the importance of these provisions from the Georgetown Center for Children and Families (CCF) and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), a new report from California about the impact of outreach and enrollment efforts there, and a new report from the CBPP that discusses strategies for states to improve the delivery of key work supports.

[CMS Provides Guidance on Stability Protections in the Affordable Care Act](#)

Last Friday, CMS issued a letter and FAQ outlining how the Administration will work with states to implement the stability protections in the ACA. For the most part, the letter reiterated that the purpose of these protections was to protect Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries from cuts to eligibility and increased red tape barriers that could result in coverage losses. There were a few changes from previous guidance issued related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, including allowing some small premium increases that are consistent with inflation and clarity about the flexibility states currently have under the ACA. For more details on what was included in the letter and FAQ, please see [CCF's blog](#) about it.

[New Reports About the Importance of the Stability Protections in the Affordable Care Act](#)

With the growing attention being paid to the Medicaid stability protections in the ACA, both CCF and the CBPP have released new reports about the consequences if these provisions are relaxed or rescinded. According to these reports, about one third of those who rely on Medicaid and CHIP could be at risk if these provisions are rescinded and that the nation's economic recovery could be threatened if such cuts were allowable. Both reports take a closer look at some of the strategies states employed during the last

downturn when such protections were not in place- largely "back-door" strategies that increased red tape and roadblocks to coverage that repress enrollment- strategies that could be instituted if these protections aren't kept in place or are relaxed. Go [here](#) to read CCF's paper and [here](#) to read CBPP's paper.

[Measuring the Impact of Outreach and Enrollment Strategies for Public Health Insurance in California](#)

Many of you involved in direct outreach work and those putting together applications for the latest round of CMS outreach grants may be interested in this new report from California about the effectiveness of different approaches to outreach on public health insurance enrollment in 25 California counties.

[Improving the Delivery of Key Work Supports at this Critical Moment](#)

A new report from the CBPP outlines strategies for states to improve the delivery of work supports across families. In the areas of program policy, procedures and systems, and data utilization, the paper discusses how states are making strides to improve both participation by families and state effectiveness in administering work support programs, with a focus on SNAP (formerly food stamps) and health coverage through Medicaid and CHIP.

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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