

NATIONAL NEWS

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009



President Obama signed the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) on Tuesday, February 17th. The bill is far reaching, providing funding for education, healthcare, transportation, energy and more than \$144 billion for state and local fiscal relief.

Specific healthcare and public health provisions in the bill include:

- \$10 billion for the National Institutes of Health
- \$19 billion to fund health IT to implement electronic medical records
- \$87 billion to increase Medicaid funding to states (all states will receive a minimum 6.2% increase to their current match rate for the next 27 months; states with higher unemployment rates may be eligible for even higher match rates)
- \$25 billion to help recently unemployed workers pay for COBRA with a 65% federal subsidy
- \$2 billion for community health centers
- \$500 million for training programs for primary care providers, including pediatricians, dentists and nurses
- \$1 billion for the Prevention and Wellness Fund, which includes \$300 million for the CDC 317 immunization program, \$650 million to carry out community-based strategies to reduce chronic disease rates and \$50 million to reduce healthcare associated infections
- \$300 million for the National Health Service Corps.

The White House has created the website www.recovery.gov to provide transparency on the funding process. The website features information on how the Act is working, tools to help hold the government accountable, and up-to-date data on the expenditure of funds.

Kathy Chan, Policy Director
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition

WHAT'S UP WITH THE NETWORK

VOTE TODAY ON THE NCKF NETWORK'S LOGO AND TAGLINE

The Communications Committee has been working on designing and developing both a logo and tagline for the Network and after much review, the Committee has narrowed it down to the following two logos and taglines for the Network to vote on.

Cast your vote no later than Wednesday, March 27th at::

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=O_2bHlcG0CW740ldNM5pbtpQ_3d_3d.

Logos

A.



B.



Taglines

A: Partnering to Advance Healthcare Coverage for Children and Families

B: Fostering Partnerships to Advance Healthcare Coverage for Children and Families



NCKF NETWORK MEMBER ASSESSMENT

The Leadership Committee would like your input. We are working on defining the Network's "niche" and "value" to our members and to other national organizations. Your feedback will help in articulating and communicating the Network's uniqueness and purpose toward the goal of health care coverage and access to quality health care for all. **Please take a few minutes to respond to the Member Assessment Survey no later than Wednesday, March 27th at:**

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=pWbB4fqkw0qjF7V8i0CDgg_3d_3d

Responses are confidential and will only be used to make improvements to the NCKF Network.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE



America's Promise is a partnership of various groups including non-profit organizations, corporations, community leaders, charitable foundations and faith-based organizations committed to seeing that children experience the fundamental resources they need to succeed—the [Five Promises](#)—at home, in school, and out in the community. The five promises include: Caring Adults, Safe Places, a Healthy Start, an Effective Education and Opportunities to Help Others. America's Promise works under three National Strategies:

[Where the Kids Are:](#) Using schools as hubs, integrate school and community services so at-risk children receive more Promises year round

[All Kids Covered:](#) See that all eligible children are enrolled in SCHIP and Medicaid

[Ready for the Real World](#) Engage every middle-school student in service learning and career exploration by designing “real-world” experiences relevant to them.

America's Promise Alliance has invited the fifty cities with the highest concentrations of low-performing high schools and all states to hold dropout prevention summits. Summits began in the Fall of 2008 and will continue through 2010. The events will drive policy and program action to strengthen schools and provide wraparound support to young people. Dropout Prevention Summits will:

- Increase public awareness of the dropout crisis
- Secure commitment for integrated collaboration between the corporate, non-profit, public and school sectors
- Engage schools and provide exposure to strengthen and support their efforts to help disadvantaged youth
- Identify and inspire local leadership to get involved in community-school initiatives
- Mobilize leaders around the Alliance's three [National Action Strategies](#).

America's Promise would like to include health insurance outreach and enrollment as an integral component of each drop-out prevention summit. NCKF Network members are encouraged to participate. For more information and to find an event near you, please visit the American's Promise website at <http://www.americaspromise.org/APAPage.aspx?id=9172>.

To be featured in next months Member Spotlight please contact Kathy Chan at kchan@ilmaternal.org.

RESOURCES



Herndon Alliance

The Herndon Alliance is a nationwide non-partisan coalition of more than 100 minority, faith, labor, advocacy, business, and healthcare provider organizations. The Alliance seeks to expand the base of people supporting affordable healthcare for all and to increase the breadth and depth of voices working and speaking out for healthcare reform. Visit www.herndonalliance.org where you can read more about their work and sign up for their strategic-message emails that can help you frame the healthcare debate.

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RESOURCES *(Continued from page 3)***RAND Corporation Compare Initiative**

RAND Corporation COMPARE is a transparent, evidence-based approach to providing information and tools to help policymakers, the media, and other interested parties understand, design, and evaluate health policies. Rather than constructing specific policy proposals, COMPARE offers objective analyses of policy options currently being used, considered, or discussed by public and private policymakers. For more information visit <http://randcompare.com/>

SAVE THE DATE

National Academy of State Health Policy
22nd Annual State Health Policy Conference
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
October 5-7, 2009

Hyatt Regency Long Beach
Long Beach, California

**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

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.

Education: Conference planners and educators, join this committee! If you have a knack for planning educational teleconferences, contact David Roos of CKF Indiana at drees@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.

Credits: Kathy Chan, Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition; Sonya Vasquez and Catherine Sepulveda of Community Health Councils/California CKF. Edited by: Janice Taylor, Community Health Councils.