



Georgetown University Health Policy Institute
Center for Children and Families



National Covering Kids & Families Network Scoop

June 16, 2010

Welcome to the first edition of the NCKF Scoop- a bi-weekly newsletter the [Georgetown Center for Children and Families](#) will be producing for the [National Covering Kids & Families Network](#). Every two weeks you can expect brief updates that we hope you find relevant and informative to your work including information about upcoming NCKF webinars and conference calls, new reports about child and family health coverage, federal updates about new changes to health care programs and member spotlights when you can read about some of the exciting and new work that your colleagues have been up to. This week's Scoop includes information about the upcoming NCKF webinar on Back-to-School work, the Health and Human Services' Connecting Kids to Coverage Campaign, and a short description about what constitutes a "grandfathered plan" under the new health reform law.

[Covering Kids and Families Webinar: Kickstarting Your Back-to-School Activities](#)

Please join us for the next National Covering Kids and Families Network webinar, scheduled for **Tuesday, July 13 from 3-4:30 PM EST**. During the webinar we will hear from staff at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) about how the federal government is ready to support outreach work with school districts to enroll eligible children into healthcare programs. This will be followed by two presentations about successful Back-to-School efforts, why schools have a stake in enrolling children into coverage and discuss how Back-to-School efforts can benefit from health reform.

Speakers:

Donna Cohen Ross, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Stacey Moody, Colorado Association for School Based Healthcare

April Griffin, Hillsborough School District, Board Member

Connecting Kids to Coverage Resources

A few weeks ago, our friends at the [New England Alliance for Children's Health](#) put together a helpful chart outlining the materials that have been created by HHS to support state and local outreach efforts to enroll eligible children. We thought the chart was so helpful, we asked them if we could borrow it to share with NCKF members, so take a look at it [here](#). And to read more about HHS' Connecting Kids to Coverage Campaign, go [here](#).

New Rules Define Grandfathered Plans

As a result of health reform, there will be many changes happening to private coverage, which we will include in the CKF Scoop since knowing more about these changes may be helpful information in your work. This week a new regulation was issued related to private health coverage that defines which health plans will qualify as "grandfathered" plans under the new health reform law. Grandfathered plans are those in existence on March 23, 2010 that will be exempt from some—but not all—of the new insurance regulations contained in health reform. Grandfathered plans can retain their status and continue to be exempt by limiting changes to benefits and cost-sharing; changes over specified limits will trigger the consumer protections that apply to new plans. This is a win for families because it allows them to keep the coverage they have as long as insurance companies are not raising cost-sharing or cutting benefits- if they do, the plans will be subject to these protections. HHS has produced a [fact sheet](#) and [question-and-answer](#) document explaining the regulations and you can read about what CCF had to say about the regulations on our blog, [Say Ahh!](#)

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