

Healthy Child Campaign

In Mississippi, more than 100,000 children (12.6 percent of all children) are uninsured. Mississippi ranks first of all states in infant mortality and in the percentage of babies born at low birth weight. A child in Mississippi dies before his first birthday every 19 hours.



Children's Defense Fund

Comprehensive health care coverage for all children up to 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) can help to improve the lives of so many of Mississippi's children. CDF-SRO actively participates in the Healthy Child national campaign launched by CDF in 2007 and supports the *All Healthy Children Act* (S. 1564/HR 1688) sponsored in the Senate Senator Bernard Sanders' (I-VT) and in the House by Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA).

Under the bill, all children through age 18 with family incomes at or below 300 percent of the poverty level (\$61,950 for a family of four in 2007) would be eligible. It would simplify and consolidate children's health coverage under Medicaid and SCHIP into a single program that guarantees children in all 50 states and the District of Columbia all medically necessary services. It sets the same rules for every state so that a child's chance to survive and thrive does not depend on the lottery of geography. (For more information visit www.childrensdefense.org/healthychild.)

Because of the confusion and bureaucracy of the current Medicaid and CHIP system in Mississippi, the Southern Regional Office employs a coordinator who helps parents with the application, certification and re-certification process. CDF-SRO has helped more than 2,000 children re-enroll in CHIP since January 2005, when a state policy change requiring face to face interviews resulted in 65,000 of Mississippi's children losing their Medicaid or CHIP coverage.

For Parents Seeking CHIP/Medicaid for Their Children:

Mail your completed Mississippi Health Benefits [application](#) form along with the required verification to CDF-SRO:

Attention: Geraldine Day
CHIP Coordinator
Post Office Box 11437
Jackson, MS 39283-1437
gday@childrensdefense.org

To apply for Mississippi Health Benefits an in-person interview is required along with:

- Proof of family income
- Original birth certificates for each child
- Social Security numbers for each person applying

Eligibility is continuous for one year for children under age 19. There are no premiums or deductibles, although there may be a small co-payment for some services for higher-income families on CHIP.

Services of CHIP and Medicaid in Mississippi include: health screenings (including vision and hearing exams; preventive health care such as immunizations; inpatient and outpatient hospital care; doctor's or clinic visits for well-child check ups and sick-child care; lab services; prescription medications; eyeglasses and hearing aids; dental care; and mental health services. There are no exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

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