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Maternal and Child Health Access

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Fact Sheet # 2: Upgrading the CHDP Gateway

Background: At present, a child under age 19 years with family income at or below 200% of poverty may enroll into temporary Medi-Cal when the family submits a completed Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Gateway screening form from the provider's office over the Internet. The child's coverage will end in a maximum of two months unless the family submits a regular Medi-Cal/Healthy Families application before the expiration date for the child's temporary coverage. While the exact return rate for follow up CHDP applications has not been shared by the State Department of Health Services (see MCH Access Fact Sheet # 1, CHDP Gateway Data, available on request), very few of the children beginning coverage through the CHDP Gateway avoid automatic termination in a maximum of two months.

Advocacy Proposal: Change the CHDP Gateway to allow use of a simple, single e-form to continue presumptive eligibility (PE) until a child's final eligibility determination is made.

- How many additional **children** would be enrolled for 12 months into Medi-Cal or Healthy Families each year as a result of this change?
  - **175,000** [1]
- What's the **cost** to the state? **$44.3 million a year**
  - **$515,000** State General Fund (SGF), for one-time administrative start-up costs for State DHS and MRMIB;[2] plus
  - **$43.8 million** SGF for annual caseload growth and on-going administrative costs
  - **$22 million** for six-month start up for Jan. 1, 2007- June 30, 2007.

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[1]Unless otherwise indicated, estimates were provided by State DHS in August 2005 to the Senate Appropriations Committee for AB 624 (Montañez) (see Analyses for 8/15/05 and 8/25/05 hearing dates for AB 624 at www.sen.ca.gov). AB 624 has been re-introduced as AB 1948.
[2] $400,000 DHS, plus $105,000 MRMIB. For the MRMIB estimate, the Senate Appropriations Committee extrapolated from analyses provided by MRMIB staff.

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