



Maternal and Child Health Access

-MCHA Advocate Update-

October, 2009

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Healthy Families Program Update

Healthy Families Program Open to New Enrollment, Children Will Not Be Disenrolled

Healthy Families has secured sufficient funding to avoid disenrolling children at their Annual Eligibility Review and to begin enrolling over 88,000 children that have been waitlisted. Healthy Families has indicated they will process applicants on the waitlist in the order that they were received and that new enrollment began September 17, 2009; to read more [CLICK HERE](#).

Please Note: Families on the waitlist that provided income verification that is currently over 45 days old will be contacted by Healthy Families and asked to provide current income verification. This will not affect those who used an income tax statement to verify income.

Premiums will increase for some families beginning November 1, 2009

Insurance Premiums	Category B	Category C
Health Plans Available	Number of Children:	Number of Children:

	1	2	3 or more	1	2	3 or more
Community Provider Health Plan:	\$13	\$26	\$39	\$21	\$42	\$63
Other Health Plans:	\$16	\$32	\$48	\$24	\$48	\$72

Co-Payment Increase for Category B & C

- Co-payments for non-preventive health, dental, and vision services will increase from \$5 to \$10
- Co-payments for generic prescription drugs will increase from \$5 to \$10
- Co-payments for brand name prescription drugs will increase from \$5 to \$15, unless no generic is available or brand name drug is medically necessary
- Co-payments for emergency room visit services will increase from \$5 to \$15, unless the child has to stay in the hospital

Please Note: The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare has told the state that it cannot apply these new co-pay increases to children in families with income at or below 150% of poverty. It is our understanding that families with income below 150% (Category A) will NOT have their co-payments increased, but MRMIB is still reviewing their options.

California Kids Open Los Angeles County

California Kids program is once again open for enrollment in Los Angeles County. California Kids offers coverage for outpatient medical services, dental and some mental health services. There are no income, immigration or other health coverage restrictions. The plan is open to children between the ages of 2 and 18. Partially because there are no income limits, premiums are \$49.00 per month and co-pays range between \$3.00 and \$110.00, depending on the service provided making the cost prohibitive for some families. [CLICK HERE](#) to access MCHA's California Kids fact sheet.

California Kids does not cover hospitalization or inpatient surgeries. For more information or to get an application call California Kids at (818) 755-9700 or visit www.californiakids.org

Advocacy Tip!

The unemployment income stimulus payment increase is not considered for purposes of determining Medi-Cal eligibility or Medi-Cal share of cost (SOC). Beginning February 22, 2009, unemployment benefits were increased by \$ 25.00 per week for both new and existing individuals on unemployment. The weekly increase of \$25.00 shall not be considered when screening for Medi-Cal or Food Stamps. The check stub shows the regular benefit amount in the upper right hand corner; use this income for eligibility screening and SOC calculation. The actual check will have the additional stimulus payment added into the amount. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the All County Welfare Letter or call MCHA for more information.

**Help families
in need!**

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Contact Info

If you have questions regarding our specialized trainings or have technical questions, please contact:

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