

Community Health ADVOCATES



U.S. Senate Passes SCHIP Reauthorization

NRHA Applauds Efforts to Provide Health Coverage for Rural Children

As posted by National Rural Health Association on www.nrharural.org/advocacy/sub/07SCHIP.html on 8/4/07

On August 3rd, the Senate passed a bill that reauthorizes and improves the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) by a 68 to 31 vote. The bill would provide an additional \$35 billion over five years to provide health coverage to an estimated four million additional uninsured children. The National Rural Health Association is glad that the bill continues to contain a strong emphasis on outreach, including efforts to enroll rural children in the program.

The program was established in 1997 as a way to provide insurance to children that did not qualify for Medicaid. The NRHA has strongly supported the program since that time. Congress must complete reauthorization of the program before October 1st or the program will disappear.

As a part of these efforts, the NRHA has strongly lobbied Congress to include provisions for rural outreach in SCHIP, since rural children disproportionately rely on public insurance programs. A recent study from the Carsey Institute found that 32 percent of children in rural areas rely on SCHIP or Medicaid compared to 26 percent of children in cities. In addition, over 1.3 million rural children are still uninsured. We must do better.

The Senate bill would reauthorize SCHIP and require the creation of a national enrollment campaign to enroll under-served populations in Medicaid and SCHIP. The campaign would include grants to states, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and schools to help enroll new children. The priority would be given to programs that would take place in rural regions of the country.

This bill is very different than the House version passed Wednesday, August 1st. That bill includes an additional \$50 billion dollars for SCHIP over five years but also contains a two year halt of scheduled ten percent cuts to physicians, a large rural Medicare package and other changes to the Medicare program. We anticipate the Congress working this fall to produce a conference report that would combine the two bills. We will keep you posted on these continued efforts.



To read more about current Congressional action or to learn more about these programs, visit the [NRHA 2007 SCHIP and Health Package page](#). The NRHA is an association dedicated strictly to rural health. This encompasses many professions and personal endeavors, but always focuses on what is best for rural.



CareLink

CareLink - Linking Communities to Services

117 N. Potter Avenue
Kirksville, MO 63501
660-665-3455 or
877-539-2227 toll-free

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LOCAL AGENCIES RECEIVE GRANT FUNDS

Three local agencies were among twenty-two Missouri organizations to recently receive a share of \$5,015,536 in grants from **Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH)** to provide improved health care opportunities to residents of the region. This funding comes through three MFH programs:

- **Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Initiative (TPCI)**, a multi-phased approach to reducing tobacco use;
- **Co-Occurring Disorders** priority area grant, which funds integrated services for individuals dealing with mental health and substance abuse issues; and
- **Better Self-Management of Diabetes (BSMOD)** priority area grant, which focuses on helping uninsured/underinsured individuals manage their diabetes.

Putnam County R-1 Schools Unionville, is among the organizations receiving funds for Tobacco Prevention and Cessation. The \$19,142 grant award will fund the *Smokebusters* program in north central Missouri, which provides education about the dangers of tobacco to students, parents and the community.

Mark Twain Area Counseling Center, Kirksville, received \$283,014 through MFH's Co-Occurring Disorders priority grant, which allows northeast Missouri to improve access to integrated treatment for adults with mental illness and substance abuse addictions.

Preferred Family Healthcare, Inc., received \$281,080 through MFH's Co-Occurring Disorders priority grant to create a consumer-friendly, integrated treatment program at its Hannibal site in northeast Missouri.

TEEN IMMUNIZATIONS UNDERWAY

The **2007 Pre-Teen Vaccine Campaign** was recently launched to increase awareness among parents and health professionals of three new vaccine recommendations for 11- and 12-year-olds. The campaign, launched on August 1, 2007, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to coincide with National Immunization Month, also encourages parents to schedule a routine check-up for their children in this age group, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and CDC.

The campaign provides educational materials (including posters and flyers in English and Spanish) about vaccines to protect children from meningitis, tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, and cervical cancer. It also includes outreach to mainstream and ethnic media, as well as information on the creation of partnerships with national and state organizations that reach parents and health professionals. More information about the 2007 campaign is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/preteens-adol/07gallery/default.htm>.

Contact your Local Public Health Agency to learn about immunization services available to teens in your county.

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|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Adair 660-665-8491 | Macon 660-385-4711 |
| Clark 660-727-2356 | Putnam 660-947-2429 |
| Knox 660-397-3396 | Schuyler 660-457-3721 |
| Lewis 573-767-5312 | Scotland 660-465-7275 |
| Linn 660-258-7251 | Shelby 573-633-2353 |
| | Sullivan 660-265-4141 |

DID YOU KNOW...

...that between January 2005 and May 2007, the **CareLink** program has provided:

- 35,534 encounters through free screenings, clinics and mental health services;
- 1,665 transportation encounters;
- 1,010 referrals to social service, sliding fee scale or other charity health programs;
- 2,524 referrals for additional or follow-up care;
- and the referral coordinator has provided assistance through 3,086 encounters (walk-ins or calls to the toll-free number).



...and since June 2005, the **NMRHN Prescription Drug Assistance Program** has ordered 6,149 medications for 595 patients with an estimated value of more than \$1,100,024. During that time, 218 patients have received 410 medications through the **Emergency Medication Needs Fund**.



NEMO
Telehealth Network

Northeast Missouri Telehealth Network recently announced that five new telehealth sites will be equipped in the coming year:

- Twin Pines Adult Care Center, Kirksville
- Marceline Community Health Center
- Lancaster Medical Services
- Mark Twain Area Counseling Center, Hannibal
- Women's Health Center, Kirksville