

# State Children's Health Insurance Program

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has become an important source of coverage for children and families. SCHIP and Medicaid together have contributed to the decline in uninsured children from 14% of all children in 1997 to 9% in 2005. SCHIP needs to be reauthorized in 2007 with substantial new funding if the program is to maintain and build on its successes.

## SCHIP State Snapshots: Georgia Peach Care for Kids



|               | 2005 Enrollment | Federal Match Rate <sup>1</sup> |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Georgia       | 220,000         | 72.3%                           |
| United States | 6.1 million     | 65%–85%                         |

### Basic Program Facts

States have three options for SCHIP programs:

- Separate SCHIP program (S-SCHIP)
- Medicaid expansion program (M-SCHIP)
- Combination of both

Georgia runs a separate SCHIP program.

### Eligibility

SCHIP was enacted to provide health coverage to targeted low income children. Federal rules and waivers allow states to set their income eligibility at levels that are higher or lower than the target level of 200% of the federal poverty level (\$43,300 for a family of four in 2007). States that cover families at higher income levels usually require some cost sharing.

Georgia is one of 19 states that set eligibility for coverage at a level greater than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Georgia's upper income eligibility limit is 235% FPL. Families at the higher ends of income eligibility pay higher premiums.

| Program Type by Age   | Eligibility as % of FPL | Premium Requirement |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Separate SCHIP</b> |                         |                     |
| infants               | 185%–235%               | \$26–\$70           |
| 0–5 yrs               | 135%–235%               | \$10–\$70           |
| 6–18 yrs              | 100%–235%               | \$10–\$70           |

### Cost Sharing

Many SCHIP programs require enrollees to share in the cost of coverage or services by paying premiums or co-payments. The type of SCHIP program a state has determines its flexibility in establishing cost-sharing requirements. M-SCHIP programs have less flexibility than S-SCHIP programs.

Georgia requires premiums based on an income scale that ranges from \$10 to \$70 monthly depending on income and family size.

## Benefit Package

All SCHIP Medicaid expansion programs must provide the federally required Medicaid benefit package. Separate SCHIP programs must offer benefits meeting federal requirements under a number of options.

Georgia's Separate SCHIP Covered Benefits include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Physician services
- Inpatient hospital services
- Inpatient and outpatient mental health services
- Inpatient and outpatient substance abuse services
- Family planning services
- Home health services
- Pharmacy
- Dental preventive and treatment services
- Hearing aids
- Eyeglasses

## Outreach, Enrollment and Retention

Because application, enrollment, and renewal processes are critical in reaching SCHIP's goal of reducing the number of uninsured children, states have worked on outreach and simplification efforts to enroll and retain children in SCHIP programs.

Georgia's efforts include (but are not limited to):

- Pre-printed reapplication information is sent out to families 90 days in advance of the coverage renewal date

## Access to Primary Care Physicians in 2004

| Age        | Percent |
|------------|---------|
| 12–24 mths | 95%     |
| 2–6 yrs    | 87%     |
| 7–11 yrs   | 82%     |

<sup>1</sup> Source for 2005 Federal Match Rate values: Kaiser statehealthfacts.org, "Federal Matching Rate (FMAP) for SCHIP," accessed on May 14, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Source for state specific HEDIS measure data are state FY2005 SCHIP Annual Reports to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which are available at [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov).

Unless otherwise specified, the data source used is: Kaye, Neva, et al. *Charting CHIP III: An Analysis of the Third Comprehensive Survey of State Children's Health Insurance Programs*, National Academy for State Health Policy (September 2006). Available at <http://www.chipcentral.org>.

## Quality<sup>2</sup>

Since program inception, SCHIP programs have implemented various policies to promote access to quality care. States worked with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop a set of performance measures that states could report annually. Four core measures based on the Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) were chosen:

- Well child visits for infants under 15 months
- Well child visits for children ages 3, 4, 5, and 6
- Use of appropriate asthma medications
- Access to primary care providers (PCP)

Georgia provided data on three measures in its 2005 annual report to CMS, which is the most recent report available. The data to the left is an example from Georgia's report.