

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: Alaska Denali KidCare



	2005 Enrollment	Federal Match Rate ¹
Alaska	10,817	70.3%
United States	6.1 million	65%–85%

Basic Program Facts

States have three options for SCHIP programs:

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

Alaska runs a Medicaid expansion 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.

Alaska sets eligibility for coverage at 175% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

Program Type by Age	Eligibility as % of FPL	Premium Requirement
Medicaid SCHIP		
infants	0%–175%	\$0
1–5 yrs	0%–175%	\$0
6–16 yrs	0%–175%	\$0
17–18 yrs	0%–175%	\$0

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.

Alaska's SCHIP program does not include premium requirements.



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.

Alaska's Medicaid Expansion Covered Benefits include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Physician services
- Inpatient hospital stays
- Inpatient and outpatient mental health services
- Outpatient substance abuse services
- Private duty nursing services
- Home health services
- Pharmacy
- Dental preventive and treatment services
- Hearing aids
- Vision examination and 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.

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

- Continuous eligibility guarantee for 6 months, which reduces the chance that children will have breaks in coverage or dropped be from the program for failure to complete paperwork
- Reapplication information is sent out to families for updates 45 days in advance of coverage renewal date
- If no response is received then another pre-printed form is sent 15 days prior to the renewal date
- Distribution of applications and brochures in public schools

Quality²

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)

Alaska provided non-HEDIS data on two measures in its 2005 annual report to CMS, which is the most recent report available. Access to primary care providers, the measure specified in these 'SCHIP STATE SNAPSHOTS', was not available.

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

² 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.

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>.