

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: District of Columbia CHIP



	2005 Enrollment	Federal Match Rate ¹
District of Columbia	4,535	79%
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

The District of Columbia 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.

The District of Columbia is one of 23 states that set eligibility for coverage at 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

Program type by Age	Eligibility as % of FPL	Premium Requirement
Medicaid SCHIP		
infants	186%–200%	\$0
1–5 yrs	133%–200%	\$0
6–16 yrs	100%–200%	\$0
17–18 yrs	100%–200%	\$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.

The District of Columbia'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.

The District of Columbia's Medicaid Expansion 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
- Private duty nursing services
- Personal care services
- Home health services
- Pharmacy
- Dental preventive and treatment services
- Eyeglasses
- Prosthetic appliances

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.

The District of Columbia's efforts include (but are not limited to):

- Continuous eligibility guarantee for 12 months, which reduces the chance that children will have breaks in coverage or be dropped from the program for failure to complete paperwork
- Pre-printed reapplication information is sent out to families for updates 90 days in advance of the coverage renewal date
- Distribution of applications and brochures in public schools
- SCHIP media campaign (television, radio, print, outdoor advertising)

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)

The District of Columbia's 2005 annual report to CMS, which is the most recent report available, did not include data on the four HEDIS measures.

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>.