



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Alabama Department of Public Health announces freeze on enrollment for Children's Health Insurance Program - ALL Kids

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alabama Department of Public Health announces a freeze on enrollment in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) ALL Kids. The freeze, effective Sept. 1, means that all applications for new enrollees received after this date are being placed on a waiting list in the order they are received. The children who are currently enrolled in ALL Kids may remain on the program, if they continue to meet all eligibility criteria, at their time of renewal. As current enrollees become ineligible the total number of children covered through ALL Kids will decline.

ALL Kids provides comprehensive health care coverage for children under the age of 19 in families whose incomes are above Medicaid eligibility levels and below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Parents of enrolled children are able to access affordable health care with the program's comprehensive benefits package.

This program has been critical in the success of reducing the number of uninsured children in Alabama to one of the lowest levels in the state's history. Since ALL Kids began in October 1998, more than 109,544 children in Alabama have received health care coverage.

ALL Kids is beginning its fifth year with over 61,000 children currently enrolled in the program. ALL Kids is funded with 79 percent federal funds drawn down by a 21 percent state match, most of which comes from the General Fund.

"With the possibility of budget cuts, we simply cannot add more children to the ALL Kids program at this time," says Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer. "All efforts are being made to continue to offer this affordable health care coverage to as many eligible children as possible. By freezing enrollment now we are hoping to avoid having to actively take children off the program."

ALL Kids will continue to distribute and accept applications for enrollment. This is because the application form for ALL Kids is a joint application for three other programs: SOBRA Medicaid, Medicaid for Low Income Families and the Alabama Child Caring Foundation.

Applications are being screened and those children who are eligible for ALL Kids will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which they are received. Applications for children who are not eligible for ALL Kids but who appear to be eligible for one of the other programs will be forwarded to that program.

For more information, please call the ALL Kids administrative offices at 1-334-206-5568 or toll free at 1-877-774-9521.

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