

Renewing Funding for CHIP and Children's Health Needs

No new CHIP funding will be available after September 2015 without Congressional action. Over the next year, it is critical for advocates to educate their policymakers about CHIP's role in their state, its success and children's unique health needs.

Renewing Funding for CHIP

- All children need access to quality health care to thrive and reach their full potential.
 - Every child can succeed when given the chance. And when it comes to setting up a child for success, few things matter more than good health.
 - When children's health needs are met, they are better able to learn in school and parents miss fewer days of work.
 - By ensuring our kids have the health care they need, we can create a stronger future for [STATE].
- The Children's Health Insurance Program or "CHIP" is a proven program with a history of bipartisan support that provides kids with the health care they need to stay healthy and succeed.
 - Together, CHIP and Medicaid have been hugely successful in providing high-quality, cost-effective health care for millions of children. Thanks to these programs, the number of kids without health insurance is the lowest in history.
 - CHIP supports children in families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but don't have access to affordable coverage through their employers.
 - In [STATE], [NAME OF STATE CHIP PROGRAM] and Medicaid programs have helped bring the children's coverage rate up to more than [X] percent. CHIP gives [STATE] the resources, tools and financial incentives to help hardworking families make ends meet when it comes to their kids' health.
 - CHIP is designed with kids exclusively in mind—providing pediatrician-recommended services that children need to reach important developmental milestones, including dental, hearing, vision, and mental health.
- Unless Congress acts, we will reverse our country's historic gains in covering kids.
 - Without federal action, we stand to undo nearly twenty years of progress connecting kids to the health coverage they need to develop and thrive.
 - If CHIP funding is not renewed, [STATE] would lose as much as [\$X] million in federal funds in 2016 alone.
 - While many children may have access to other sources of coverage, such as the new private marketplaces, their families will pay more for less comprehensive coverage.
 - National messaging/states with family glitch: An estimated 2 million children nationally could lose access to affordable coverage altogether and become uninsured.
- Funding for CHIP must be extended through 2019.
 - Renewed financing should be consistent with the law, which authorizes the program through 2019.
 - Renewing CHIP funding will ensure millions of children continue to receive the best care possible at an affordable cost.
 - It is crucial for children to have continuous coverage as states continue to implement different parts of the Affordable Care Act. We should not put children's health at risk during this critical start-up period.

- Continued CHIP funding will give hardworking families the peace of mind of not being one accident or illness away from financial disaster due to their kids' unpaid medical bills.
- Renewing funding for four years gives states the ability to better plan their budgets.
- By renewing this proven, bipartisan program, we can protect and build on our progress for the nation's children and provide [STATE's] kids with the coverage and quality care they need to reach their full potential.