



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
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**For Immediate Release**

## **Medicaid Enrollment on the Rise Due to More Convenient Enrollment and Outreach Initiatives**

### **More New Mexico Children Getting and Keeping Health Coverage**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico* – Thousands of additional New Mexicans, including children, have enrolled in Medicaid during the past few months as a result of aggressive new efforts by the state to reach out to eligible citizens who need access to health care.

“I am pleased that these aggressive efforts are working because it means thousands of additional New Mexicans are getting the health coverage they need, said Pamela Hyde, Secretary of the state’s Human Services Department.

The Human Services Department recently released new enrollment numbers for the month of August, which show the total number of people covered through Medicaid and SCHIP is 405,957, of which 264,865 or 65% are children. This compares to the previous month of 402,018 total and 261,599 children.

“What is even more promising is that preliminary enrollment figures for September, October and November show additional increases each month,” said Hyde.

The department also tracks the number of people enrolled in Managed Care Organizations, which predominantly serve children. Their enrollment figures show a nearly 10 percent increase from July to December.

Increased federal rules, requirements and audits over the past few years have made it more difficult for some eligible families to recertify for their Medicaid and SCHIP coverage.

Governor Bill Richardson asked the department to find new, innovative ways to help families keep their coverage, while maintaining the state’s ability to comply with the federal regulations.

Beginning in August, a project began that notified Medicaid families they may now “recertify” or re-enroll four different ways: by phone, mail, fax or e-mail. “Families are finding the different options much more convenient and the results show that,” said Hyde. It also relieves pressure for HSD staff, which is tasked with the duty of ensuring proper documentation by the federal government. HSD is also taking a closer look at the people who do not recertify to determine why and is working to update addresses for clients when mail is returned as undeliverable.

HSD is predicting nearly 300,000 children will be covered by the end of the current budget year that ends June 2008.

Also this year the department increased its outreach events across the state, which has resulted in more than 1,000 people enrolling in a Medicaid, SCHIP or State Coverage Insurance program. “Our enrollment events are making it more convenient for people to enroll because we come

directly to the community with mobile eligibility workers who determine right then and there if the person is eligible, and with the proper documents, is able to enroll the client on the spot,” said Carolyn Ingram, Medical Assistance Division Director.

New Mexico children in families with incomes up to 235 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) qualify for a New Mexikids program, for example a family of three with an annual income of \$42,936 or less. There are several other income eligibility requirements for adults, see chart below. For younger children under age six, income disregards may increase the household income at which these children are eligible to almost 300 percent FPL.

New Mexicans interested in learning about the programs to see if they qualify are encouraged to call the Human Services Department’s Insure New Mexico! Solutions center at 1-888-997-2583.

### FEDERAL MONTHLY GUIDELINES

Effective April 1, 2007 thru March 31, 2008

Percent of Poverty

Family Size

	85%	100%	130%	133%	135%	150%	155%	165%	185%	200%	235%	250%	300%
1	724.00	851.00	1,107.00	1,132.00	1,149.00	1,277.00	1,320.00	1,405.00	1,575.00	1,702.00	2,000.00	2,128.00	2,553.00
2	970.00	1,141.00	1,484.00	1,518.00	1,541.00	1,712.00	1,769.00	1,883.00	2,111.00	2,282.00	2,682.00	2,853.00	3,423.00
3	1,217.00	1,431.00	1,861.00	1,904.00	1,932.00	2,147.00	2,219.00	2,362.00	2,648.00	2,862.00	3,363.00	3,578.00	4,293.00
4	1,463.00	1,721.00	2,238.00	2,289.00	2,324.00	2,582.00	2,668.00	2,840.00	3,184.00	3,442.00	4,045.00	4,303.00	5,163.00
5	1,710.00	2,011.00	2,615.00	2,675.00	2,715.00	3,017.00	3,118.00	3,319.00	3,721.00	4,022.00	4,726.00	5,028.00	6,033.00
6	1,956.00	2,301.00	2,992.00	3,061.00	3,107.00	3,452.00	3,567.00	3,797.00	4,257.00	4,602.00	5,408.00	5,753.00	6,903.00
7	2,203.00	2,591.00	3,369.00	3,446.00	3,498.00	3,887.00	4,017.00	4,275.00	4,794.00	5,182.00	6,089.00	6,478.00	7,773.00
8	2,449.00	2,881.00	3,746.00	3,832.00	3,890.00	4,322.00	4,466.00	4,754.00	5,330.00	5,762.00	6,771.00	7,203.00	8,643.00

#### Insure New Mexico! Health Care Coverage Guidelines

- 100%: Mandatory Coverage for Children age 6 to 18
- 133%: Mandatory Coverage for Children age 0 to 5
- 185%: Children’s Medicaid, Pregnant Women, Family Planning
- 200%: State Coverage Insurance (SCI)
- 235%: State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- 250%: Working Disabled Individuals Program (WDI)
- 300%: Institutional Care



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