

Adoptation  
Alliance of Community Assistance  
Ministries of Greater Houston (ACAM)  
Alliance Adolescent & Children's  
Services  
Arrow Child and Family Ministries  
Bering Omega Community Services  
Care for Elders  
Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.  
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of  
Galveston-Houston  
ChildBuilders  
CHILDREN AT RISK  
Children's Defense Fund  
Coalition for Behavioral Health Services  
Coalition for the Homeless of  
Houston/Harris Co., Inc.  
Collaborative for Children  
Communities In Schools  
Community Family Centers  
Covenant House of Texas  
DePelchin Children's Center  
Family Services of Greater Houston  
Fort Bend Regional Council on  
Substance Abuse, Inc.  
Gateway to Care  
Good Neighbor Healthcare Center  
Gulf Coast CHIP Coalition  
Harris County Child Abuse Task Force  
Harris County Healthcare Alliance  
Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston  
Houston Area Association for the  
Education of Young Children  
Houston Area Women's Center  
Houston Food Bank  
Houston Area Immunization Registry  
IntraCare Hospitals  
Jewish Family Service  
Jewish Federation of Greater Houston  
Justice for Children  
League of Women Voters Houston  
Legacy Community Health  
Services, Inc.  
Memorial Hermann Healthcare System  
Mental Health America  
of Greater Houston  
NAMI Metropolitan Houston  
NAMI West Houston, Inc.  
Neighborhood Centers, Inc.  
Neuhaus Education Center  
Northwest Assistance Ministries  
Planned Parenthood of Houston  
and Southeast Texas, Inc.  
Prepared 4 Life  
San Jose Clinic  
SEARCH  
South County Community Clinic,  
DBA The Community Clinic  
Spaulding for Children  
St. Luke's Episcopal Health System  
Systems of Hope  
Texans Together Education Fund  
Texas Children's Hospital  
The Arc of Greater Houston  
The Methodist Hospital System  
The Network of Behavioral  
Health Providers  
United Way of Greater Houston  
Wesley Community Center  
YMCA of Greater Houston  
YWCA of Greater Houston

## Healthcare: Medicaid Eligibility

**Position Statement approved by One Voice: November 14, 2008**

**Issue/Concern:** Currently, Texas requires Medicaid eligible children to re-qualify for coverage every six months. Sixteen other state Medicaid programs and 27 State CHIP programs (including Texas CHIP) have 12 months continuous eligibility for children who qualify for the state's Medicaid and CHIP programs.

**Specific Policy Recommendation(s):** 1) Adopt a 12-month eligibility period for the children's Medicaid program. This recommendation would align the Children's Medicaid program's eligibility periods with current private insurance and CHIP practices in Texas. 2) Appropriate sufficient funding for Eligibility System and increased outreach.

**How does this issue/recommendation relate to prevention and early intervention or maximizing federal funds for health and human services?** For every \$1 of state funds invested in Children's Medicaid, Texas receives \$2.63 in federal matching funds. Children's Medicaid benefits include regular check-ups, doctor's office visits, vision, dental, mental health, hospice, immunizations, prescriptions, medical supplies, hospitalizations, tests, x-rays and also coverage for pre-existing conditions. Providing this type of coverage allows children to receive care early and identify conditions earlier. Remaining healthy allows children to excel in school and aids in their overall development.

### Supporting Facts/Research/Resources:

- ★ The state of Texas has the highest rate of uninsured children in the nation at 20.2%. The U.S. average is 11.6%. (2006 U.S. Census).
- ★ Currently, over 1.7 million children are enrolled in the state's Medicaid program. The Texas HHSC estimates that 2.6 million children could be eligible for the state's Medicaid program—a difference of slightly more than 900,000 children.
- ★ Enrollment in the Texas CHIP program has increased by more than 117,000 since the program implemented a 12-month eligibility period.
- ★ Uninsured children are at high risk of living sicker and dying earlier than their insured peers. Research to date reveals that uninsured children are:
  - ★ 25% more likely than insured children to be in only fair or poor health;
  - ★ Almost 12 times as likely as insured children to have an unmet medical need;
  - ★ More than 5 times as likely as insured children to have gone without a doctor visit and 2 ½ times as likely to have gone without a dental visit for more than 2 years.

<sup>1</sup> Bloom B, Dey AN, Freeman G. *Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Children: National Health Interview Survey, 2005*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 10(231). 2006. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund, 4/07.

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