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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HHS awards \$32 million in grants to sign up children for health coverage**

*Medicaid's proven success in enrolling kids in health coverage is a model for future efforts*

Today, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced nearly \$32 million in grants for efforts to identify and enroll children eligible for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The *Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment Grants* were awarded to 41 state agencies, community health centers, school-based organizations and non-profit groups in 22 states; two grantees are multistate organizations.

"Today's grants will ensure that more children across the nation have access to the quality health care they need," said Secretary Sebelius. "We are drawing from successful children's health coverage outreach and enrollment efforts to help promote enrollment this fall in Medicaid and the new Health Insurance Marketplace."

Efforts to streamline Medicaid and CHIP enrollment and renewal practices, combined with robust outreach activities, have helped reduce the number of uninsured children. Since 2008, 1.7 million children have gained coverage and the rate of uninsured children has dropped to 6.6 percent in 2012.

Grants were made in five focus areas:

1. **Engaging schools** in outreach, enrollment and retention activities (9 awards);
2. **Reducing health coverage disparities** by reaching out to subgroups of children that are less likely to have health coverage (8 awards);
3. **Streamlining enrollment** for individuals participating in other public benefit programs such as nutritional or other assistance programs (3 awards);
4. **Improving application assistance** resources to provide high quality, reliable Medicaid and CHIP enrollment and renewal services in local communities (13 awards); and
5. **Training communities** to help families understand the new application and enrollment system and to deliver effective assistance to families with children eligible for Medicaid or CHIP (8 awards).

These awards are part of the \$140 million included in the Affordable Care Act and the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009 for enrollment and renewal outreach.

The grants will build on the Secretary's *[Connecting Kids to Coverage Challenge](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/campaigns/connectingkids/index.html)* (<http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/campaigns/connectingkids/index.html>) to find and enroll all eligible children and support outreach strategies that have been shown to be successful.

Grant amounts range from \$190,000 to \$1 million. For a list of grantees, please visit: <http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/>