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Child Health & Disability Prevention Gateway Program

How can we assist families with enrollment?

What is the CHDP Gateway program?

The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Gateway program aims to reduce access barriers to health coverage for uninsured children. The Gateway program, implemented on July 1, 2003, allows CHDP providers to “pre-enroll” children under 19 in temporary (eligibility during the month application is submitted and the following month or up to 60 days), full-scope, no-cost Medi-Cal at the time of the CHDP assessment visit.

Eligibility for the Gateway program is based on family size and an income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The full-scope services that pre-enrolled children receive include health, dental, and vision care; prescription medicines; mental health care; hospital services; laboratory tests; specialty care; and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (ESPDT).

How will CHDP Gateway work for families?

The Gateway program uses an electronic screening application process at CHDP provider sites to determine eligibility. If a child is eligible, he/she is pre-enrolled in temporary, full-scope Medi-Cal coverage at no cost. During this time, the child is given an “immediate need” document with a Medi-Cal Benefits Identification Card (BIC) number that allows the child to access services right away. Although the temporary Medi-Cal lasts for up to 60 days, a child can apply for continuing Medi-Cal or Healthy Families (MC/HF). For those families that choose to apply for continuing Medi-Cal or Healthy Families, the Department of Health Services (DHS) will mail the family a joint MC/HF application. The family must then complete and submit the joint MC/HF application before the end of the 60-day temporary period for the child to be considered for continuing Medi-Cal or Healthy Families eligibility. Once Single Point of Entry (SPE) receives the application, temporary Medi-Cal benefits are extended until either Healthy Families or a county welfare office completes the eligibility determination. A family has the option of not applying for MC/HF. However, if they wish to reapply for CHDP Gateway services, they may have to wait depending on the CHDP periodicity schedule.

Why is it important to link providers with community-based organizations?

The CHDP program provides an opportunity to reduce the number of uninsured children in California. The state estimates that the majority of the one million plus uninsured children who receive CHDP services are eligible for MC/HF but are not currently enrolled. Many providers do not have the resources to give families application assistance. However, 60% of the families submitting MC/HF through SPE actually receive enrollment assistance. To ensure that the maximum number of children eligible follow through with the application and enrollment process, community-based organizations (CBOs) and CHDP administrators need to provide leadership and organize formal linkages among all parties.

How are community-based organizations currently connecting with CHDP providers?

Despite the lack of state funding allocated for MC/HF outreach, some CBOs continue to assist families with enrollment. These CBOs have taken some of the following steps to connect with CHDP providers:



- Attending state and county-organized provider and CBO trainings if offered.
- Visiting CHDP providers to establish referral relationships for application assistance.
- Providing CHDP providers with brochures/flyers to distribute to families at CHDP offices.
- Outstationing Certified Application Assistors (CAA) at CHDP provider offices.
- Meeting with local CHDP administrators.
- Collaborating with other CBOs providing enrollment assistance to organize outreach to providers, ensure efforts are not duplicated, and reach a broader and targeted geographical area.

How are state, county, and city CHDP Programs connecting with community-based organizations and providers?

Along with the CBO activities occurring across the state, CHDP administrators are taking the following steps to connect with all parties:

- The California Department of Health Services is conducting trainings throughout the state for providers.
- County and city CHDP programs are conducting trainings for providers, CBOs, and families.
- County and city CHDP programs are contacting and following up with families who are pre-enrolled.
- County and city CHDP programs are distributing CHDP program information and bulletins to providers.
- County and city CHDP programs are organizing collaboratives among CBOs that provide application assistance and facilitate the linkage between providers and CBOs.
- County and city CHDP programs are contacting providers individually to encourage referrals to CBOs and other resources for application assistance.

How can we best make these connections?

As mentioned above, some CBOs and CHDP administrators have taken steps to connect with one another and work collaboratively within their county. However, these efforts vary with each jurisdiction and may not be formalized. To facilitate the collaborative process, the steps outlined below can be used to develop a plan to connect CBOs and CHDP administrators within your community.

- Determine which organizations/agencies are providing application assistance in the county.
- Are these agencies willing to provide application assistance to children who have applied through the CHDP Gateway program for MC/HF?
- Are these agencies currently part of an existing collaborative?
- If so, can you utilize this collaborative to facilitate and organize a county plan for outreach to CHDP providers?
- Are county/city CHDP offices a part of the collaborative? If not, are they willing to join collaborative meetings to assist with developing and facilitating any county plan?
- Are CHDP administrators conducting outreach to families who are pre-enrolled? (Note: CHDP offices will receive a list of pre-enrolled families on a weekly basis.)
- If so, is there an opportunity for the CHDP office to ask applicants whether or not they would like assistance and get their permission to have a CBO in their area contact them?
- For larger geographical areas, if CHDP offices are referring applicants to CBOs, is there a way to divide the referrals among all organizations providing assistance based upon zip codes, language capacity, hours of operation, etc.?
- Ensure that any plan to share applicant information is in compliance with all confidentiality rules and regulations.
- Do providers in the county/your geographical area have a flyer or brochure that lists all contact information (location, hours, language) for agencies providing application assistance?
- For large geographical areas, can CBOs divide the local CHDP provider list to contact in order to avoid duplication efforts?
- Do the flyers and brochures for provider offices list the documents families need to complete the MC/HF application?
- Are any CHDP providers in your area willing to have a CAA outstationed at their office?

These questions are merely a starting point for the rollout of the CHDP Gateway program. As counties and CBOs explore and implement strategies for connecting with CHDP providers and families in need of application assistance, it is likely that further ideas and suggestions for improving our efforts will come to fruition. The Covering Kids and Families Coalition will continue to follow CHDP Gateway activities around the state and provide updates on how CBOs, CHDP administrators, providers, and families are connecting. We hope that an organized and concerted effort by all counties will result in the CHDP Gateway program's success in enrolling children in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.

Where can you find additional resources on the CHDP Gateway program?

- *State DHS CHDP Gateway site:* www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/chdp/chdpgateway.htm
- *Fact Sheet(s) on CHDP Gateway program:* <http://www.100percentcampaign.org>
- *Provider Training on How to Use the CHDP Gateway:* The Department of Health Services is hosting statewide trainings for CHDP providers and their staff. For more information visit: http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov/new_CHDP.asp
- *DHS website of CHDP County Offices:* <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/chdp/directory.htm>
- *For a list of CHDP Providers in your area, contact your local CHDP Program Office:* <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/chdp/directory.htm>
- *Currently MRMIB is in the process of compiling all Enrollment Entities (EE) within the state. This list should be available by early fall and posted on the MRMIB web-site:* <http://www.mrmib.ca.gov>

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