



FUNDING FOR NEW YORK'S CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM WILL EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

Congress needs to extend CHIP funding, the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and the 23-percentage point increase in the CHIP match rate through fiscal year 2022. This will ensure stability for children and stability for states. Short-term CHIP funding extensions make it very difficult for states to plan their CHIP budgets and operations.

Child Health Plus is the state program funded and authorized by the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Federal funding for the program expires on September 30, 2017. Urgent action is needed by Congress to ensure continued coverage for New York's children.

Background

- CHIP created in 1997 created with strong bipartisan support.
- Provides federal support for coverage to uninsured children not eligible for Medicaid.
- Provides states with a set amount of funding that must be matched with state dollars.

Legislative History

- Reauthorized in 2009 by Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA); funding extended to September 30, 2015 by Affordable Care Act (ACA). ACA also required states to maintain eligibility standards through 2019. The difference in expiration for federal funding versus the maintenance of eligibility requirements created an unfunded gap (October 1, 2015 - 2019).
- Unfunded gap partially closed by Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015. Funds CHIP and a boost in the CHIP matching rate by an additional 23 percentage points until September 30, 2017.
- **Closing the rest of the funding gap and extending the program through 2022 requires legislative action.**

Child Health Insurance in New York – Child Health Plus

New York calls its CHIP program **Child Health Plus (CHP)**. CHP stands on the shoulders of Medicaid by providing high-quality, comprehensive coverage to children ineligible for Medicaid because of family income. CHP covers children in working families without access to affordable insurance.

- In June 2017, over 344,000 children (under 19) were enrolled in CHP.
- Families who are above the Medicaid eligibility level but under 400% of the federal poverty level can enroll their children in the program, with affordable premiums at higher incomes and no co-payments for services.

Because of Medicaid and CHP, almost 98% of children in New York have health insurance. **Almost universal coverage.** A remarkable achievement made possible through bi-partisan support for CHIP.

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