



Office of the Governor  
Division of Medicaid

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**Mississippi Medicaid Continues SCHIP Kids Coverage**  
*Health-care safety net remains in place*

JACKSON, MS - ( October 1, 2007) – Mississippi will continue coverage of poverty-level children under the State Children's Health Insurance Program ( SCHIP) under terms of temporary federal funding approved by Congress.

"It is crucial to many low-income families that we continue providing health-care for Mississippi's most vulnerable children, which the temporary program extension approved by Congress will do for more than 60,000 children on SCHIP," Governor Haley Barbour said. "I remain committed to working with our Congressional delegation and the Bush Administration to reauthorize the SCHIP program to fix a flaw in the funding formula, which right now shortchanges Mississippi to such a degree we cannot even provide coverage to all our eligible children."

Extension of the current SCHIP program through mid-November will allow qualified Mississippi kids to continue receiving their health-care benefits. SCHIP is a federal and state funded health-care program for kids up to 19 years of age. Mississippi pays 17 percent while the federal government pays 83 percent of this program, which in Mississippi is specifically targeted to families whose income is less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

The Office of the Governor, Division of Medicaid is a federal/state health-care program for the elderly, sick, disabled and financially challenged. Last year the program provided for the health-care needs of 568,000 Mississippians and 60,250 SCHIP kids.

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