

**For Immediate Release**

April 2, 2001

**Contact:** Francis Rullan

(601) 359-6078

**Mississippi Health Benefits Statewide Blitz**

Jackson, Miss. – The Office of the Governor, Division of Medicaid will be leading the combined efforts of state and private agencies focused on signing up qualified uninsured children for Mississippi Health Benefits during the month of April. Mississippi Health Benefits, also known as the Children’s Health Insurance Program or CHIP, provides health insurance benefits for qualified children up through age eighteen. Funded by Federal and State monies, eligibility is determined by family income, family size and the child’s age. “Families of four may earn more than \$35,000 a year and still qualify for benefits,” says Medicaid CHIP Administrator Maria D. Morris. “This much needed program covers prescriptions, eye glasses, preventive dental care, in-patient and out-patient medical care and more and most importantly there are no premiums.” Interested applicants are urged to call 1-877-543-7669 for more information on the program. According to Morris, “Signing up for Mississippi Health Benefits is easy, confidential and it can give you peace of mind.”