



Volume 2 Issue 12 April 1, 2008

Ask The Trainer

Have a question about program eligibility and/or requirements? Ask our experts at the [Ask The Trainer](#) section of CHAMP-Net.

To view previously asked questions, [click here](#).

Visit our site, [CHAMP-Net](#), to learn more.

Got Training?

When was the last time you attended a refresher course? Stay current on all new programmatic and policy changes affecting your community's health care access. [Sign up today!](#)

Greetings CHAMPERS!

I am excited to introduce this month's CHAMP-Net News and myself to all of you. I recently joined National Health Foundation and the CHAMP Training Team as Project Manager and have been completely immersed in CHAMP ever since—attending trainings, reviewing the manuals and getting to know the program. I have met many of you at trainings and community meetings and look forward to meeting many more. Through this newsletter, CHAMP-Net, and all of our trainings, my goal is to provide you with the most up-to-date and relevant information possible to support you in assisting families access healthcare coverage.

This month, one update tops our list of newsletter topics: the new Federal Income Guidelines (FIG), which are effective starting April 1, 2008. You should begin using these **immediately** when assisting families. You can access the new FIG on CHAMP-Net by clicking [here](#). This month's newsletter is filled with important news and tips including:

- CHAMP-Net Expansion
- Program Updates: Medi-Cal and Healthy Kids
- Events: 1st Annual California Partnership of Healthcare Advocates Conference
- Tips of the Month: Utilizing Useful Forms & Communication!
- CHAMP-Net's Ask the Trainer Question of the

Month

- CHAMP Training: Upcoming Release of New Training Manuals
- CHAMP-Net's County of the Month: Humboldt

Best,

Brooke Fox

Project Manager

CHAMP-Net Expansion

Are you a Certified Application Assistant (CAA) or healthcare advocate in Fresno, Imperial, Kern, or Shasta County? CHAMP-Net is expanding its web services to these four counties and we want to get to know YOU and CAAs in your county! Please email Nabihah Basrai at nbasrai@nhfca.org with your contact information as well as contact information for any CAA/healthcare advocates you know in any of the four counties listed above.

We are excited about the opportunity to work with you to reduce the number of uninsured families in California. We look forward to providing your county with the online resources and healthcare coverage program and policy information it needs.

Medi-Cal - Deficit Reduction Act (DRA)

Last month we asked YOU to tell us what is going regarding the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) in your county. This month, CHAMP-Net will highlight information regarding the DRA in Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange County. As you might know, the

DRA requires U.S. citizens or Nationals currently on or applying for Medi-Cal to provide documents that prove both citizenship and identity.

Los Angeles County will implement the DRA for new enrollees on June 1, 2008. The DRA will be implemented for individuals already receiving Medi-Cal at annual redetermination starting August 2008.

San Diego County's Medi-Cal Office has confirmed April 14, 2008 as the DRA implementation date for new applicants. For existing enrollees, the DRA implementation will go into effect in the beginning of June 2008 and will take place in a phased out process.

Orange County will implement the DRA for Medi-Cal recipients and new enrollees in June 2008. The Medical Services for Indigent (MSI) program implemented the DRA as of January 2008. Individuals with the MSI program are currently being asked to show the necessary documents before enrolling into the program. Please contact Connie Gonzalez, Program Services, at (714) 480-6400 for more information.

[Click here](#) to view the list of acceptable citizenship and identity documents. If you would like more information, please contact a local DPSS office.

CAAs should recommend that families start gathering their original citizenship and identity documents, which will allow families to have all the information necessary once the DRA is implemented. Also, as CAAs and health advocates, we must ensure that we are providing families with current and complete information regarding the DRA so this new process does not pose any challenges for them when

accessing or retaining healthcare coverage. Please do not hesitate to contact the CHAMP team for more information regarding the DRA at askthetrainers@champ-net.org.

Please visit these websites for additional information regarding the DRA:

[California Department of Health Care Services](#)

[California Primary Care Association](#)


[Health Consumer Alliance](#)

Healthy Kids – Los Angeles County

Children currently enrolled in Healthy Kids in Los Angeles will maintain their coverage. While enrollment is still frozen for children ages 6-18, children 5 and under may enroll. Health advocates and CAAs should encourage families to keep using the healthcare benefits provided to their children under Healthy Kids. Families should take their children to the doctor for well-child visits and visit the dentist for regular check-ups.

1st Annual California Partnership of Healthcare Advocates Conference

We would like to thank everyone that registered to attend the 2008 California Partnership of Healthcare Advocates Conference on April 3rd at the San Diego Convention Center. Registration for the conference begins at 8:00 a.m. Don't forget to join us for the Evening Networking Reception on April 2nd at the West Terrace in the San Diego Convention Center from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



Although online registration is now closed on www.champ-net.org, you can register in person the day of the conference.

[Click here](#) to view nearby hotels, and [click here](#) for a map and directions. Please email nbasrai@nhfca.org for more information regarding the conference. We look forward to seeing you there!

Tip of the Month – Utilizing Useful Forms & Communication!

We all know that applying for healthcare coverage is not always easy and sometimes we have to help families troubleshoot any issues that they may face during the application process, the annual eligibility review, when adding a child to their case, etc. To help with these situations, CHAMP-Net has a variety of forms that you can download and use when assisting families access healthcare coverage. Two important forms that we want to highlight this month are the Medi-Cal [Appointment of Representative Form](#) and the Healthy Families [Authorized Representative Form](#). By signing these forms, a family can provide you with authorization to request information regarding their case.

We encourage you to fill out these forms when assisting families because they allow you to advocate on the families behalf and will help you and the program representative get the family covered!

[Click here](#) to view all the forms that CHAMP-Net has to offer!

CHAMP-Net’s Ask The Trainer Question of the Month



Dear Trainer,

I have a client who would like to apply to Healthy Families for his two children, but his children live with their mom. Could you please tell me whose income would be counted?

Thank you so much!

Jesse

Dear Jesse,


When a parent applies to Healthy Families for his/her children, but the children do not live with them, the program will use the information (family size and income) from the household where the children are living in. In the case you described, Healthy Families will look at the mother's income. The family size would be the one of where the children reside, and in the scenario you described, would be 3 (mother and two children).

We hope you find this information helpful!

The CHAMP team

Upcoming Release of New Training Manuals

Attention all CHAMPERS! - The new 2008 manual has just come off the press. During the last few months, the CHAMP Team has been diligently working on updating the manual and the 2008-2009 manual has some surprises. If you would like to download the new manual please visit www.champ-net.org. You can also attend the CHAMP or Review and Update



Training and get the new copy. We want to thank everyone that contributed to the manual and we look forward to using our new manuals in the upcoming trainings.

CHAMP-Net's County of the Month – Humboldt

Humboldt County is committed to improving services that are accessed by individuals, families and communities. They are also committed to promoting, developing and maintaining a continuum of services that encourages prevention and early intervention activities.

This month, we would like to highlight some of the programs that Humboldt County offers for maternal and adolescent health.

Perinatal Services Program

This program's objective is to improve the health of pregnant women and their babies. Perinatal Services Program links Medi-Cal eligible women to comprehensive services that include prenatal education, psychosocial support, nutrition education and counseling and obstetric care. This program also collaborates with medical providers and community members to address issues related to access and quality of prenatal care.

Fetal Infant Mortality Review and Child Death Review Program (FIMRCDRT)

The goal of this program is to improve the health and well being of women, infants, and families through the review of fetal, infant and child deaths in the community. A team formed by service providers and community leaders review all the findings regarding

infant and child mortality and identify if the factors that cause this issues require change in the system. The fetal and infant mortality review and child death review team develops recommendations to address the issues identified and develops possible interventions.

Childhood Injury Prevention Program (CIPP)

The goal of this program is to reduce the number and severity of injuries to Humboldt County children. The CIP program established a Childhood Injury Prevention Coalition that conducts assessments and provides research to develop recommendation for effective prevention interventions.

CIPP implemented the Child Passenger Safety Program that works to increase the proper use of the child safety seat among families with children between the ages of 0 and 6, as well as the Youth Driving Safety Program that provides educational activities at local high schools to promote seatbelt use and discourage drinking and driving among adolescents.

If you would like to obtain more information about any of these programs please contact the Department of Health and Human Services at 707-445-6210 or visit

<http://co.humboldt.ca.us/HHS/>

Have you checked out all of the features offered on CHAMP-Net? to take a look!

To comment or share your

** By joining CHAMP-Net at <http://www.champ->

suggestions about this newsletter, please contact us at the information listed below.

Nabihah Basrai

E-mail:

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www.nhfca.org

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