

CHAMP-Net News

March 3, 2009 | Volume 3, Issue 3

CHAMP-Net is a program of the National Health Foundation (NHF).

Click [here](#) to visit NHF's website.

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March 2009

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Have a question/comment regarding CHAMP-Net or CHAMP-Net News? Please share your suggestions by contacting Nabihah Basrai at nbasrai@nhfca.org or 213.538.0745. We look forward to hearing from you!

Hello CHAMPers,

We hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the beautiful weather. In the March edition of CHAMP-Net News, the CHAMP team would like to take a moment to thank all the advocates who completed the CHAMP-Net Survey. Your invaluable feedback will allow us to continue to provide you with the quality information you need when enrolling families into healthcare coverage programs.

We commend and thank you for your hard work, especially in this difficult financial time, where many families will probably turn to you for assistance obtaining health insurance. Please know that the CHAMP Team is here to support you, and do not hesitate to contact us and let us know if you have any concerns, comments or suggestions.

This issue of CHAMP-Net News highlights some important topics of interest to health advocates including:

- Events
 - Learning Collaborative Series: Strategies for Building a Certified Application Assistant Network
 - Cover the Uninsured Week
- Healthcare Coverage Program Updates
 - California Budget and Healthcare
 - **Medi-Cal - NO MID-YEAR STATUS REPORTS FOR CHILDREN**
 - Healthy Families - Premium Increase/HF Newsletter
 - Kaiser Permanente Child Health Plan - Application Information
- CHAMP-Net's Tip of the Month - Federal Income Guidelines
- Ask the Trainer Question of the Month
- CHAMP Training - Oral Health Training
- CHAMP-Net's County of the Month - San Joaquin

Best always,

Nabihah Basrai, Program & Education Specialist

Events

[Learning Collaborative Series: Strategies for Health Care Coverage](#)

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***Spotlight on:
[Pregnant and Parenting
Teen Program receives
AT&T Foundation
Support](#)***

***Each month CHAMP-Net
News will highlight a
current NHF program.***

National Health Foundation (NHF) has received a grant from the AT&T Foundation that will enhance the breadth of services provided to the participants through the Harold Cares About Your Future Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program. NHF has designed and implemented the Pregnant and Parenting Teen program, a 10-week school-based program that combines individual and peer group educational sessions. Core activities include a series of weekly workshops and presentations that help each participant reach the following goals: avoid a second pregnancy; remain in high school with the goal of graduation; prepare for employment by learning job search and interview skills; gain enhanced parenting abilities; and utilize appropriate health care for self and child.

A grant from the AT&T Foundation will support the initial development of a web-based data collection system to monitor program participants and outcomes, provide ongoing resources and education; and maintain strong interpersonal connections. NHF will be developing an evaluation system that will include: capturing the quantitative data to monitor program objectives and

Community Health Councils, Inc. (CHC) and the California Covering Kids and Families (CKF) Project are hosting a *Strategies for Health Care Coverage Learning* session entitled "Strategies for Building a Certified Application Assistant Network". The session will take place on Monday, March 9, 2009 from 12:00pm - 4:30 pm in Sacramento, CA. Interested participants are expected to attend the learning collaborative session in teams in order to develop a realistic and achievable action plan to take back to their county. For more information, [click here](#).

Cover the Uninsured Week

Cover the Uninsured Week is going to take place from March 22-28, 2009. For tips on how your agency can get involved, please click [here](#).

Healthcare Coverage Program Updates

California Budget and Healthcare

The Governor signed a budget package at the end of February which aims to close the nearly \$40 billion budget gap over the next 17 months. For adults enrolled in Medi-Cal, funding for optional benefits including dental, acupuncture, audiology, speech therapy, chiropractic, optometry, podiatry, psychology, and incontinence creams and washes will be eliminated. If California receives adequate funds from the Federal Stimulus package by April 1, 2009, this reduction in benefits will be reversed. There are no other changes to eligibility or enrollment in the budget. Budget updates will be posted to CHAMP-Net as they become available.

Medi-Cal

Mid-Year Status Reports

Good news! Due to changes in federal legislation, **Los Angeles County has not and will not implement the Mid-Year Status Report changes that would have impacted children.** Please continue to encourage your clients to complete the Mid-Year Status Report so the adults will maintain their benefits. Please inform your Clients that Mid-Year Status Reporting policy is not changing. (This information courtesy of Medi-Cal Policy Section, Los Angeles County DPSS).

For information about implementation of MSRs in other counties, please contact your local DPSS office and check [CHAMP-Net](#) for Medi-Cal program updates.

outcomes; maintain participant contact information; and provide ongoing resources, education and information to program participants. By capturing this data, NHF will have the ability to evaluate the impact of the program and will continue to provide resources and referrals to participants after graduation from the program. Ongoing resource and referral provision will occur when NHF will conduct quarterly email updates with the teen participants and graduates.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Danielle Cameron:
dcameron@nhfca.org

Healthy Families

Premium Increase & Newsletter

As you may have heard, effective February 1, the Healthy Families Program has increased their monthly premiums. Families in Category A have not been affected. If a child in

Category B is enrolled in the Community Provider Plan, their monthly premiums will be \$9, and if not enrolled in this plan, will be \$12. Children in Category C will pay \$14 if enrolled in a Community Provider Plan, and \$17 if not. The maximum premium for Category B is \$36 per family, and \$51 for Category C. Please encourage families to submit a [Premium Re-evaluation Form](#) with their current income documentation as their premium category might have decreased and they might be required to pay a lower premium amount. Filling out this re-evaluation form may also alert families that they may now be eligible for Medi-Cal, which is at no-cost to the family.

You can access the Healthy Families Program newsletter [here](#). These newsletters provide important information regarding program updates.

Kaiser Permanente Child Health Plan

Application Information

As you may know, Kaiser Permanente Children's Health Plan (KPCHP) still continues to have open new enrollment for eligible children residing in Los Angeles County, Orange County and all Northern California areas. Also, it's important to note that Kaiser Permanente is only accepting new KPCHP applications with the revision date of **August 2008** (08/2008) since January, 2009.

If an application with a revision date **older** than August 2008 is sent, the application will be denied for processing and it will be returned to the family along with a new one for resubmission. As a result, families may have to wait longer in receiving healthcare coverage for their children if old applications are submitted. In view of this, please recycle (throw away) all old versions of the KPCHP application and order new ones if needed. For assistors using One E App, there is no need to worry as you are already using the (08/2008) version.

If you need new enrollment applications, or other KPCHP materials, please contact the CHAMP team via email at askthetrainers@champ-net.org

For KPCHP customer service support call 1-800-255-5053, for the following:

- to inquire about the status of an application, if it's been approved or denied

- if your client receives a letter of denial and you have a question about it
- account updates such as an address, name or phone number change

The representatives are available Mon. - Thurs., 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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CHAMP-Net's Tip of the Month: Federal Income Guidelines

It is almost time to update the Federal Income Guidelines (also known as the Federal Poverty Level). These guidelines help CAAs and health advocates accurately determine what program a family may be eligible for. On April 1, the Federal Income Guidelines from 2008 will no longer be accurate, and on this date, you will be able to access all of our handouts and materials with updated FIG. Please log into CHAMP-Net to download the correct guidelines. If you have any questions regarding where to access these numbers do not hesitate to contact the CHAMP Team.

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Ask The Trainer Question of the Month

Dear Trainer,

I am helping a client who is on Kaiser Permanente Child Health Plan. She is 15 years old and recently got pregnant. Can she still receive services through Kaiser? Or should I refer her to Medi-Cal or AIM? She is still in school and lives with her parents

Sincerely,

Jesse

Dear Jesse,

If a child is an active enrollee of the Kaiser Permanente Child health Plan, their prenatal services are covered by the plan and she can stay enrolled throughout her pregnancy. As long as her family's income continues to qualify her for KPCHP she will receive services until she ages out. To get more information regarding what services are covered for KPCHP beneficiaries, please contact the CHAMP Team.

Hope this helps!

-The CHAMP Team

*Please do not hesitate to send us a question or comment at askthetrainers@champ-net.org. Our trainers will respond to you within 48 hours.

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CHAMP Training: *NEW* Oral Health Training

After many requests, we are happy to announce that beginning April 1, 2009 CHAMP will now offer an additional training focused on oral health. The CHAMP Oral Health training will include information on the importance of oral health, the various dental coverage programs available and how to help families access oral health services.

As you know, many children lack access to dental care and suffer from untreated dental disease that can potentially lead to health

risks and self-esteem issues. For this reason, the goal of the CHAMP Oral Health Training is to improve the oral health of children by providing assistors with the fundamental information to help families access dental coverage for themselves and their children.

If you would like to schedule a training, please contact Tricia Fitzgerald at tfitzgerald@nhfca.org or call 213-538-0778.

CHAMP-Net's County of the Month: San Joaquin

San Joaquin County is dedicated to promoting better health by preventing disease, promoting wellness and ensuring access to needed healthcare. This month, CHAMP would like to highlight some of the programs available in this county.

The Communicable Disease Program monitors the incidence of reportable communicable diseases in the county; conducts surveillance and case investigation of all reportable communicable diseases, outbreak management, contact identification, patient and community education, and consultation to physicians, infection control practitioners, schools and day care providers.

The Public Health Clinic provides childhood, influenza and travel immunizations, examinations to identify and treat sexually transmitted diseases, patient education, contact interviews and follow-up. Public Health clinics operate in Lodi,

Manteca, Stockton, and Tracy. The Division also operates a mobile clinic to deliver services throughout the County.

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Program monitors the follow-up of infants born to Hepatitis B carrier mothers to prevent infection of the newborn. The Program provides education, laboratory testing, and immunizations for those at risk of Hepatitis B infection from a pregnant carrier.

The Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program monitors the incidence of TB and conducts activities to control its spread. The Program provides surveillance and data collection, TB case management services, contact identification and screening, and directly observed therapy services. TB skin tests and preventive clinical services are furnished to evaluate and treat TB infection in high risk persons.

The Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Program identifies and treats persons with sexually transmitted diseases. The program provides examinations and laboratory testing to identify and treat STDs in clinic and mobile clinic settings. Patient education, contact interviews and follow-up services are also provided.

If you would like more information on any of these programs, please contact Public Health Services' Disease Control and Prevention Division at (209) 468-3822.

The Community Services Program coordinates HIV and AIDS-related services in the County. Anonymous and confidential HIV counseling and testing is provided at Public Health clinics and mobile clinic sites. Education and prevention services include street-based outreach and activities at schools and correctional facilities. For more detailed information about this program, call (209) 468-3822.

Black Infant Health Program provides social support, case management, referral and assistance into care for eligible high risk families and infants up to one year of age. For information or referrals, contact: (209) 953-3703.

NHF is an independent, charitable, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to improving and enhancing the healthcare of the underserved by developing and supporting innovative programs that 1) can become independently viable, 2) provide systemic solutions to gaps in healthcare access and delivery and that 3) have the potential to be replicated nationally.