

# CHAMP-Net News

Volume 2, Issue 13 | May 1, 2008

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

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



## Important links May 2008

[2008-2009 Federal Income Guidelines](#)

[Updated Handouts for 2008-2009](#)

[Deficit Reduction Act \(DRA\) information](#)

[NEW Joint Medi-Cal/Healthy Families Application](#)

(in English and Spanish)

[Updated CHAMP Manual for 2008-2009](#)

[May 2008 CHAMP Training Schedule](#)

## Quick Links

[CHAMP-Net](#)

[Last Month's Newsletter](#)

[Ask The Trainers](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

Have a question or comment regarding CHAMP-Net or CHAMP-Net News? Please share your suggestions by contacting Nabihah Basrai at [nbasrai@nhfca.org](#)

## Hello CHAMPers!

The CHAMP Team is pleased to bring you May's edition of CHAMP-Net News!

The 2008-2009 Federal Income Guidelines are available on CHAMP-Net. You can view them by clicking [here](#). Also, don't forget to update your [handouts](#) with the new guidelines as well.

We would like to thank all of you for your ongoing support of CHAMP-Net. We hope the information provided in our newsletter allows you to better assist families access healthcare coverage. We would love to hear your comments and suggestions so please do not hesitate to contact us. Your valuable input will enable us to better serve you!

In this edition of CHAMP-Net News, we will provide you with information on the following topics:

- [CHAMP-Net Expansion](#)
- Program Updates
  - Medi-Cal - Deficit Reduction Act (DRA)
  - Major Risk Medical Insurance Program - Waitlist
  - Healthy Families - NEW Joint Medi-Cal/Healthy Families Application & Open Enrollment
- Events
  - Cover The Uninsured Week 2008
  - Reflections from the 1st Annual California Partnership of Healthcare Advocates Conference
- Tip of the Month - Follow-up with Families
- CHAMP-Net's Ask the Trainer Question of the Month
- CHAMP Training - Certified Application Assistant Training
- CHAMP-Net's County of the Month - Shasta

Sincerely,

Nabihah Basrai, Program & Education Specialist

## → [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](mailto: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.

## → [Events](#)

[nbasrai@nhfca.org](mailto:nbasrai@nhfca.org) or  
213.538.0745. We look  
forward to hearing from  
you!

### Cover The Uninsured Week 2008

April 20 - May 5

Did you know that approximately 1 million California children are currently without healthcare coverage? There are several ways you can assist in reducing this number, and what better time to do this than in the week dedicated to insuring the uninsured. Here are a few tips on ways you can get involved:

- Host a health fair at your site
- Host an enrollment event
- Distribute information regarding healthcare coverage programs
- Educate families on the importance of healthcare coverage

And of course, make sure to always stay updated on healthcare coverage program changes.

Click [here](#) to find out about events happening during Cover the Uninsured Week.

### Reflections from the 1st Annual California Partnership of Healthcare Advocates Conference

Thank you to everyone who attended the conference in beautiful San Diego! The CHAMP Team was pleased to meet all of you at the event!

The conference drew together approximately 500 representatives from the state, health advocacy agencies and CAAs. This conference was the first to highlight the work CAAs are doing across the state and consisted of two plenaries and nine workshops that focused specifically on ways to equip CAAs with the tools necessary to effectively navigate the healthcare system for California families.

*"The conference overall was great! I especially enjoyed the workshop to improve outreach strategies."* - T. Torres

Thank you to all those who worked hard in putting together the conference. Next year, we hope to increase the number of CAA's that attend and continue to increase families' access to healthcare programs.

We would love to hear your comments and suggestions for future conferences, so please feel free to send your feedback to [champ-net@champ-net.org](mailto:champ-net@champ-net.org).

### **Program Updates**

#### **Medi-Cal**

#### *Deficit Reduction Act (DRA)*

The DRA implementation is around the corner! In Los Angeles County, the DRA will be put into effect on June 1, 2008 for new enrollees. The DRA will be implemented for individuals already receiving Medi-Cal at annual redetermination starting August 2008. Please check with your local Department of Public Social Services for further information regarding when the DRA will be implemented in your county.

As of now, healthcare advocates should be advising families to gather original citizenship and identity documents. Please visit the [Useful Forms](#) Section of [CHAMP-Net](#) to view copies of the letters the state is sending to families, as well as a list of the citizenship and identity documents that can be used to satisfy the DRA requirement.

#### **Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (MRMIP)**

## Waitlist

MRMIP provides healthcare coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions. There is currently a waitlist to enroll into the program. Please click [here](#) to learn more.

## Healthy Families

*New and Improved Joint Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Mail-in Application (MC 321 HFP)!*

Advocates can now use the updated Joint Application when helping families apply to Medi-Cal for Families and Healthy Families. The new application has many important changes, so we recommend that all community health advocates and CAAs take time to become familiar with the new form. It will also be available on Health-e-App and One-e-App. Some important changes to be aware of include:

- Pregnant women with Medi-Cal or AIM coverage for their pregnancies should not use the Joint Application to apply for coverage for their newborn child(ren); they should use the Newborn Referral Form to get their children into Medi-Cal and the Infant Registration Form to get their newborns into Healthy Families more quickly. Please click [here](#) to view the Newborn Referral Form in English and Spanish, and [here](#) to view the Infant Registration Form.
- New Question 20: Enter BIC # for any family member who did have or currently has Medi-Cal.
- New Question's 43 and 44: Allows the application to be shared with local Healthy Kids Programs if not eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families or with Healthy Families if the child is no longer eligible for Medi-Cal. Assistors and families should leave these two questions **blank** to maximize the chances that children will be enrolled into a health care coverage program.

Click [here](#) to download the new Joint Application in both English and Spanish. For more information on changes and tips for completing the application, click [here](#).

### *Open Enrollment*

As you may have heard, Open Enrollment for the Healthy Families Program has been delayed this year. Families will receive notices with more information. Click [here](#) for more information.

## CHAMP-Net's Tip of the Month: Follow-up with Families

With all the up and coming changes in healthcare coverage programs, there is one way to ensure that our families stay enrolled in their program: follow-up. As simple as it sounds, this routine can be a crucial part in helping families stay connected to the healthcare programs that they need. The CHAMP team encourages CAAs to consider this time-line for their follow-ups:

- At first contact, confirm the family phone number is working while they are in your office.
- After submitting the application, follow-up to ensure that families get enrolled. If there are complications with the application, troubleshoot to get them resolved. If you need further assistance, seek help from someone to get the child coverage as soon as possible. The CHAMP team is happy to assist you with any questions you may have.
- 1-2 months later, follow-up to see if families know where their providers are located and encourage families to become familiar with their providers. If the family is

enrolled in a health plan, ensure that the plan is appropriate for the health needs of the family.

- Next, 4 months after enrollment, follow-up to make sure that the family is responding to any mail from the programs and that they are utilizing their services! If the family has changed address make sure that you get their updated contact information.

It's important to keep communication lines open with families, and CAAs are often the most trusted source for information. Families often need guidance in order to keep up with all the changes in healthcare. Besides the challenge of finding healthcare coverage for everyone, CAAs have done an extraordinary job in assisting families. Keep up the good work!

### → CHAMP-Net's Ask The Trainer Question of the Month!

Dear Trainer,  
Can you provide me with further information on PRUCOL and tell me where I can download the form?

Thank you,  
Jesse

Dear Jesse,  
Thank you for your question. PRUCOL stands for Permanently Residing Under the Color of Law and is an immigration term given to individuals that are undocumented that reside in the United States. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) knows of their presence in the country and are not intending to deport them. Some examples of individuals that fall under PRUCOL status are refugees, women under the Violence Against Women Act, certain victims of human trafficking, etc. These individuals, although they are undocumented, may qualify for full-scope (comprehensive) Medi-Cal services, rather than only emergency services.

The PRUCOL form (MC-13) can be accessed by clicking [here](#). The form should be submitted with the individual's Medi-Cal application.

We hope this information helps! Please contact us for any further questions.

-The CHAMP Team

### → CHAMP Training - Certified Application Assistant Online Prep Course

Do you want to become a Certified Application Assistant (CAA) or have staff that do? NHF offers a CAA Prep Course which guides advocates through the online training course and prepares them to take the exam. By the end of the two-day course, participants will be ready to take the Online CAA Certification Exam. We currently have trainings scheduled in Lancaster (May 12-13), La Mirada (June 12-13) and Orange County (May 20-21 {Spanish} & June 23-24). If you are interested in attending a training or would like to learn more about scheduling a CAA training at your agency, contact Tricia Fitzgerald at (213) 538-0778 or [tfitzgerald@nhfca.org](mailto:tfitzgerald@nhfca.org). You can view complete descriptions of all NHF trainings and a current schedule [here](#).

### → CHAMP-Net's County of the Month: Shasta

Shasta County's Mission: Our County...Our Community! Shasta

County healthcare advocates are committed to excellence in public service and CHAMP-Net is excited to expand its web services there! Look for Shasta County on [CHAMP-Net's home page](#) in November 2008.

Shasta County offers various health services for its residents, and this month CHAMP-Net News will highlight a few of these services:

**The Senior Health & Wellness Program** offers a variety of services for adults aged 50 and above. Services include exercise classes and walking groups, health screenings, and in-home safety assessments to prevent falls. In-home safety assessments are FREE. A Registered Nurse will come to your home to provide an individualized fall prevention assessment.

Call Home Health Care Management, Inc. at (800) 400-0727 or Medical Home Care Professionals at (800) 655-6334 to see if you qualify and to schedule an assessment.

**The Parenting Support Program** offers parents various resources on the difficult task of parenting. Healthy beginnings, healthy family habits and other resources can be found [here](#).

**The Shasta Breastfeeding Support Center** is open to anyone to visit and receive help or information about breastfeeding. As mothers and trained breastfeeding professionals, staff understands the deep need to provide assistance to breastfeeding women, their infants and families.

Contact Shasta County Public Health for more information: (800) 971-1999.

Click [here](#) for more information on Shasta County!

