

## **Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Offer Free Or Low-Cost Health Coverage To Children And Families**

If you are eligible for health coverage from your employer, but are unable to afford the premiums, some States, including California, have premium assistance programs that can help pay for coverage. These States use funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs to help people who are eligible for employer-sponsored health coverage, but need assistance in paying their health premiums.

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in California or one of the many other states that provide a premium assistance program, you can contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, you can contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or **[www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov)** to find out how to apply. If you qualify, you can ask the State if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

Once it is determined that you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, your employer's health plan is required to permit you and your dependents to enroll in the plan – as long as you and your dependents are eligible, but not already enrolled in the employer's plan. This is called a "special enrollment" opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance.**

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### **For California, information is available at:**

Website: [http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/TPLRD\\_CAU\\_cont.aspx](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/TPLRD_CAU_cont.aspx)

Phone: 1-866-298-8443

Please contact our insurance broker for information on other states (about 40 states have such programs):

Keith McNeil  
McNeil Benefits Insurance Services  
7200 Redwood Blvd., Suite 400  
Novato, CA 94945  
415-493-2476  
[keith@mcneilbenefits.com](mailto:keith@mcneilbenefits.com)

For more information on special enrollment rights, you can contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor  
Employee Benefits Security Administration  
[www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa)  
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)  
OMB Control Number 1210-0137 (expires 07/31/2010)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
[www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)  
1-877-267-2323, Ext. 61565