

MEDICAID AND CHIP ELIGIBILITY

Over the past decade, considerable progress has been made in covering families and children through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, also known as CHIP.

- ▶ Forty-six states and Washington, D.C., cover children in families with income at 200 percent or higher of the federal poverty level under Medicaid or CHIP. Twenty-three states and Washington, D.C. provide coverage to children in families with income up to or higher than 250 percent of the federal poverty level.
- ▶ Thirty-nine states and Washington, D.C. cover pregnant women in families with income at 185 percent of the federal poverty level or higher under Medicaid or CHIP.
- ▶ Six states—Alabama, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming—cover pregnant women only up to the federal minimum requirement of 133 percent of the federal poverty level. Washington, D.C., Iowa and Wisconsin cover pregnant women up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level.
- ▶ Median income eligibility among states for parents is 64 percent of the federal poverty level, compared to median income eligibility for children of 235 percent of the federal poverty level. For jobless parents, the states' median income eligibility is only 38 percent of the federal poverty level.
- ▶ Income eligibility for jobless parents ranges from a low of 11 percent of the federal poverty level in Alabama and Louisiana to a high of 215 percent of the federal poverty level in Minnesota.
- ▶ Sixteen states and Washington, D.C., cover working parents in families with income at 100 percent of the federal poverty level or higher under Medicaid or CHIP.
- ▶ Income eligibility for working parents ranges from a low of 17 percent of the federal poverty level in Arkansas to a high of 215 percent in Minnesota.



In 2009, health coverage for low-income children and parents not only survived the economic downturn but advanced through eligibility expansions.

- ▶ In 2009, nine states—Alabama, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oregon, Washington and West Virginia—increased income eligibility limits for uninsured children.
- ▶ Only two states, California and Tennessee, responded to their state budget crises by freezing CHIP enrollment for at least a portion of 2009.
- ▶ Health coverage for pregnant women remained steady in 2009. Iowa raised coverage for pregnant women up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level and Virginia expanded coverage to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- ▶ Coverage of parents remained stable in 2009; only Arizona cut coverage for parents, reducing eligibility from 200 percent of the federal poverty level to 100 percent of the federal poverty level. This portion of parent coverage was financed with CHIP funds and was not impacted by the provisions of the 2009 Recovery Act.

Source: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, "A Foundation for Health Reform: Findings of a 50 State Survey of Eligibility Rules, Enrollment and Renewal Procedures, and Cost-Sharing Practices in Medicaid and CHIP for Children and Parents During 2009, December 2009. Accessed from <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/8028.cfm> on January 20, 2010.

Income Eligibility Level as a Percent of Federal Poverty Level

State	Medicaid/CHIP Expansion			CHIP	Medicaid		
	Infants (0-1)	Children (1-5)	Children (6-19)	Separate State Program	Pregnant Women	Jobless Parents	Working Parents
Alabama	133%	133%	100%	300%	133%	11%	24%
Alaska	175%	175%	175%	n/a	175%	77%	81%
Arizona	140%	133%	100%	200%	150%	106%	106%
Arkansas	200%	200%	200%	n/a	200%	13%	17%
California	200%	133%	100%	250%	200%	100%	106%
Colorado	133%	133%	100%	205%	200%	60%	66%
Connecticut	185%	185%	185%	300%	250%	185%	191%
Delaware	200%	133%	100%	200%	200%	100%	121%
District of Columbia	300%	300%	300%	n/a	300%	200%	207%
Florida	200%	133%	100%	200%	185%	20%	53%
Georgia	200%	133%	100%	235%	200%	28%	50%
Hawaii	300%	300%	300%	n/a	185%	100%	100%
Idaho	133%	133%	133%	185%	133%	21%	27%
Illinois	200%	133%	133%	200%	200%	185%	185%
Indiana	200%	150%	150%	250%	200%	19%	25%
Iowa	300%	133%	133%	300%	300%	28%	83%
Kansas	150%	133%	100%	241%	150%	26%	32%
Kentucky	185%	150%	150%	200%	185%	36%	62%
Louisiana	200%	200%	200%	250%	200%	11%	25%
Maine	200%	150%	150%	200%	200%	200%	206%
Maryland	300%	300%	300%	n/a	250%	116%	116%
Massachusetts	200%	150%	150%	300%	200%	133%	133%
Michigan	185%	150%	150%	200%	185%	37%	64%
Minnesota	280%	275%	275%	n/a	275%	215%	215%
Mississippi	185%	133%	100%	200%	185%	24%	44%
Missouri	185%	150%	150%	300%	185%	19%	25%
Montana	133%	133%	133%	250%	150%	32%	56%
Nebraska	200%	200%	200%	n/a	185%	47%	58%
Nevada	133%	133%	100%	200%	185%	25%	88%
New Hampshire	300%	185%	185%	300%	185%	39%	49%
New Jersey	200%	133%	133%	350%	200%	200%	200%
New Mexico	235%	235%	235%	n/a	235%	29%	67%
New York	200%	133%	100%	400%	200%	150%	150%
North Carolina	200%	200%	100%	200%	185%	36%	49%
North Dakota	133%	133%	100%	160%	133%	34%	59%
Ohio	200%	200%	200%	n/a	200%	90%	90%
Oklahoma	185%	185%	185%	n/a	185%	31%	47%
Oregon	133%	133%	100%	300%	185%	32%	40%
Pennsylvania	185%	133%	100%	300%	185%	26%	34%
Rhode Island	250%	250%	250%	n/a	250%	175%	181%
South Carolina	185%	150%	150%	200%	185%	48%	89%
South Dakota	140%	140%	140%	200%	133%	52%	52%
Tennessee	185%	133%	100%	250%	250%	70%	129%
Texas	185%	133%	100%	200%	185%	12%	26%
Utah	133%	133%	100%	200%	133%	38%	44%
Vermont	300%	300%	300%	300%	200%	185%	191%
Virginia	133%	133%	133%	200%	200%	23%	29%
Washington	200%	200%	200%	300%	185%	37%	74%
West Virginia	150%	133%	100%	250%	150%	17%	33%
Wisconsin	300%	300%	300%	n/a	300%	200%	200%
Wyoming	133%	133%	100%	200%	133%	39%	52%

Source: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, December 2009. Accessed from <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/8028.cfm> on January 20, 2010.

Note: Some states do not have a separate CHIP program.