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Funds Secured to Clear Healthy Kids Waiting-List

Future of Healthy Kids Program Now Depends on State Health Care Reform

Los Angeles, CA – Today, co-conveners of the Children's Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles (CHI) announced that it has secured \$7.3 million in new grant funding, which will maintain coverage for existing enrollees and provide health coverage to nearly 1,600 children, ages 6 to 18, currently on the waiting list for Healthy Kids. The funding will make it possible for those waitlisted to join their 37,000 peers currently in Healthy Kids through January 2008.

Healthy Kids is a low-cost health insurance program for children who do not qualify for state sponsored Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. The program provides eligible children with comprehensive health coverage. The locally-funded program is supported by the CHI, a coalition co-convened by L.A. Care Health Plan, The California Endowment, and Los Angeles County. The CHI coalition now includes nearly 50 groups representing health plans, foundations, government, community-based organization, labor and business.

To date, the CHI has raised a total of \$127 million to fund the Healthy Kids 6-18 program, while also conducting outreach and enrollment activities to ensure that children who are eligible get enrolled in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. The Healthy Kids 0-5 program is fully funded by First 5 LA. CHI has also surpassed its 3-year goal of providing health coverage to children who do not qualify for state-sponsored health insurance.

The CHI's overarching goal has always been to work towards a state policy solution to ensure health coverage for all children. As a result, the future of the program depends on the ongoing efforts for state health care reform. Currently, three of the four health care reform proposals include health coverage for all children. If a policy solution for children's health coverage in California is not secured, nearly 40,000 children in Los Angeles will lose their health coverage, possibly as early as January 2008.

This latest round of funding shows the commitment from a core group of CHI funders, and includes:

- Blue Shield of California - \$1.5 million
- California Community Foundation - \$350,000
- L.A. Care Health Plan - \$3.5 million
- QueensCare - \$2 million

"We've shown locally that providing health coverage to all kids is within reach," said Howard Kahn, CHI co-convener and CEO of L.A. Care Health Plan. "We are counting on a solution out

(more)

of Sacramento this session since the Governor and Legislative Leaders have made health coverage a priority, but time and funds are running out.”

There are many similar efforts throughout California to provide children with health coverage, but the CHI in Los Angeles County is the largest by far with approximately 40,000 kids enrolled in comprehensive health coverage. For a complete list of CHI funders, please see **Attachment 1**.

About the Children’s Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles

The Children’s Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles (CHI) was formed over three years ago with the overarching goal to create public policies to keep kids healthy and ensure that no child has to go without health insurance. The CHI was created by the Children’s Health Initiative Coalition — a public-private group of healthcare providers, private employers, business leaders, advocacy groups, foundations, public health officials and labor unions. Key financial supporters of the Initiative include First 5 LA, L.A. Care Health Plan, The California Endowment, Blue Shield of California Foundation, and the California Community Foundation. Healthy Kids, the flagship health insurance program for the CHI, is administered exclusively by L.A. Care Health Plan. For more information about the Children’s Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles or the Healthy Kids program, please visit www.chigla.org or call 1-888-4LA-KIDS (1-888-452-5437). A full list of Coalition participants is available upon request.

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Funding Organizations

ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT
L.A. Care Health Plan	\$44,500,000
First 5 LA	\$41,800,000
The California Endowment	\$14,000,000
Blue Shield of California Foundation	\$13,962,810
Centinela Medical Care Fund	\$4,000,000
QueensCare	\$3,200,000
Weingart Foundation	\$1,750,000
California Community Foundation	\$1,350,000
Ralph M. Parsons Foundation	\$750,000
California HealthCare Foundation	\$750,000
UniHealth Foundation	\$500,000
W. M. Keck Foundation	\$500,000
Northrop-Grumman Corporation	\$150,000
Joseph Drown Foundation	\$50,000
The Norris Foundation	\$25,000
Pipkin Charitable Foundation	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$127,292,810