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Request for Proposal—2009

Goal: Increase the number of New Hampshire children who have access to health and dental insurance coverage

The HNH*foundation* is seeking proposals from non-profit organizations to conduct advocacy and public policy activities to address the Foundation goal to increase the number of New Hampshire children who have access to health and dental insurance coverage.

The HNH*foundation* board of directors will select one organization to receive funding up to \$50,000 for one year (additional years and funding to be considered) to conduct the strategies detailed below. Applicants that demonstrate experience relative to the goal outcomes described below and illustrate skill in advocacy, coalition building and system change strategizing will be prioritized.

Background

Research shows that children with gaps in health insurance coverage do not receive medical care, including preventive visits, and do not get prescriptions filled. Insurance status has shown to be a substantially more powerful predictor of access to and use of health care for children, while continuous health insurance coverage, whether public or private, provides important protections and is superior to intermittent coverage or no coverage at all.

Additionally, children who have health insurance are more likely to have a health care home, access preventive and other needed health services, and have improved social and emotional development. Therefore, enrollment and retention in a health insurance plan can have a positive impact on the continuity of care and ultimately, child health outcomes.

In 1997, the US government created the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and allocated approximately \$20 billion over ten years to help states insure low-income children whose family incomes made them ineligible for Medicaid. The continuation of the CHIP Program is one example of closing the access gap for children's health insurance. Similar solutions and related issues of access to health insurance need to be incorporated into policy practices and discussions to understand the scope of insurance access and coverage, and to develop policy options that are responsive to the ways children obtain and sustain insurance coverage.

Goal Outcomes

1. There will be increased awareness of and support for access to health and dental insurance coverage for children
2. All NH children will have access to health and dental insurance coverage
3. NH children will have no barriers to enrollment and retention in health and dental insurance coverage.
4. Federal and state laws, regulations and guidelines will support access to health and dental insurance for children

Eligible applicants must be statewide, non-profit organizations whose mission and goals are substantially aligned with the mission and goals of the HNH*foundation*. Grant funding is available to accomplish the Foundation goal outcomes using the following strategy.

Goal Strategy

Conduct advocacy activities that ensure access to health and dental insurance coverage for children by:

- conducting nonpartisan policy research and analysis and dissemination of results
- conducting nonpartisan public education that informs the general public, policymakers and opinion leaders about the health implications of public policy issues
- convening of policymakers, experts, researchers, and others in an effort to frame policy issues (conferences, workshops, meetings, etc.)
- tracking of health legislation and regulation
- other advocacy efforts such as organizing and training

For application submission, refer to the [Grantmaking Guidelines](#) and other related materials found on the HNH*foundation* website, www.hnhfoundation.org under “Grant Center.”

Portions of this document include information from:

- Lynn M. Olson, Ph.D., Suk-fong S. Tang, Ph.D., and Paul W. Newacheck, Dr.P.H. “Children in the United States with Discontinuous Health Insurance Coverage,” *New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 353:382-391, July 28, 2005, Number 4.
- *Children’s Health Insurance Programs in New Hampshire: Access, Prevention, Care Management, Utilization and Payments, State Fiscal Year 2007 Issue Brief*, NH Department of Health and Human Services, December 2008.