

Lead Agencies

UW-Madison, School of Human Ecology
UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension

Statewide Coalition Members

ABC for Health, Inc
ABC for Rural Health
Agnesian Health Care
Aurora Health Care
Automated Health Systems
Boys & Girls Club of Dane County
Brown County Health Dept
Center for Family Policy & Practice
Center for Patient Partnerships
CESA #11 Head Start/Early Head Start
Children's Community Health Plan
Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin
Children's Hospital & Health System
Clark County Dept of Social Services
Community Advocates, Inc
Dane County Dept of Human Services
Dane County Parent Council, Inc
Dean Health System
Economic Justice Institute
Family Planning Health Services, Inc
Fox Cities Community Health Center
Group Health Cooperative- SCW
High Expectations
La Causa, Inc
La Crosse County Health Dept
Managed Health Services
Marathon County Child Development Agency – Head Start
March of Dimes – Wisconsin Chapter
Marshfield Clinic
Medical College of Wisconsin
Middleton Cross Plains Area School District
Milwaukee Health Dept
Milwaukee Public Schools
Network Health Plan
Public Health Madison and Dane County
Returning into Mainstream Ministries, Inc
Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative
Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers
Security Health Plan
Seeds of Health WIC
South Madison Health & Family Center – Harambee
Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program
St. Marys/Dean Ventures, Inc
United Way of Dane County
UnitedHealthcare
Unity Health Insurance
UW-Extension, Dane County
UW-Extension, Dunn County
UW-Extension, Marathon County
UW-Extension, Outagamie County
UW-Extension, Wood County
UW-Madison, Dept of Pediatrics
UW-Madison, School of Medicine & Public Health,
Community Service Programs
Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health
Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care
Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies
Wisconsin Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Wisconsin Council on Children & Families
Wisconsin Dept of Health Services
Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction
Wisconsin Family Planning & Reproductive Health Assoc.
Wisconsin Office of Rural Health
Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association
Wisconsin WIC Program
Wood County Dept of Social Services
Write Resources, LLC

covering kids & families

Wisconsin

Connecting kids to health care coverage

October 28, 2009

Dear Editor and news desk:

Recent reports about a waiting list for Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus program for adults without dependent children have caused much confusion. BadgerCare Plus, Wisconsin's public health insurance program, is actually a combination of many programs. One is for children and families. Another is the new program for "childless adults." ONLY the childless adult program – called BadgerCare Plus "Core" – has a waiting list. All other BadgerCare Plus programs are still enrolling people, including the one for children and their caretakers.

The Core program began to enroll childless adults this past summer. As part of a special waiver from the Federal Government, Wisconsin had to set a limit on the number of people who can actually receive health benefits through Core at any one time. Because the program had been so popular in its first few months, this limit was quickly reached. The State is putting applications received after October 9th on a waiting list.

This change in the Core program has led many to believe that all BadgerCare Plus programs have been put on hold. To be clear: the program for children and parents or other caretakers is alive and well, taking new applications and enrolling uninsured Wisconsinites everyday. All Wisconsinites who are uninsured or do not have access to affordable coverage should apply for BadgerCare Plus. It is easy to see if you or your family members may be eligible by going to www.access.wisconsin.gov. Parents with children can begin to receive health care almost immediately. Those without dependent children can at least get on the waiting list.

Michael Jacob
Project Coordinator, Covering Kids & Families
Madison, WI

Note to editor: Covering Kids & Families (CKF) is a statewide coalition dedicated to reducing health disparities and improving overall health in Wisconsin by cultivating a network of informed individuals and organizations and thereby enhancing capacity to maximize participation in public health insurance programs.