



# Covering Kids & Families

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## BADGERCARE+

As of February 1, BadgerCare Plus (BC+) allows virtually every Wisconsin family, regardless of income, to have access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage for their kids. In addition, BadgerCare Plus offers coverage for more pregnant women, self-employed parents, farmers and youth aging out of foster care.

Families are now able to apply for BadgerCare Plus and FoodShare using one online application. Simply go to [access.wi.gov](http://access.wi.gov) and fill out the online application for BC+ and other health and nutrition programs. The online application is a convenient way for families to access benefits they need.

Do you want to help families learn about BadgerCare Plus and FoodShare? You can:

- Talk about BadgerCare Plus with your clients and partner organizations.
- Display a BadgerCare Plus Poster and hand out brochures.
- Become a community partner that helps families sign up for BadgerCare Plus and FoodShare.



For more information go to [badgercareplus.org](http://badgercareplus.org) or call 1.800.362.3002.

### Is providing health insurance for more kids fiscally responsible?

You do the math.

Provided by the Wisconsin Council on Children & Families

98,000	The number of Wisconsin kids who were uninsured in 2006. <sup>1</sup>
93%	The percentage of uninsured Wisconsin children living in a working family. <sup>2</sup>
0	Net cost of the BadgerCare Plus provisions to cover almost all children in the state, as well as more farmers and pregnant women. <sup>3</sup>
\$53,600,000	The amount Wisconsin hospitals save every year because BadgerCare reduces unpaid bills for treating people without health insurance. <sup>4</sup>
\$794	The amount that unpaid health care bills for the uninsured add to the annual cost of a Wisconsin family's health insurance. <sup>5</sup>
\$2.36	The amount of federal match Wisconsin receives for every state dollar invested in BadgerCare coverage of children. <sup>6</sup>
0	The amount of federal match for every dollar spent by Wisconsin hospitals to treat the uninsured.

To view references visit: [http://www.wccf.org/pdf/hc\\_fiscallyresponsible\\_%20final.pdf](http://www.wccf.org/pdf/hc_fiscallyresponsible_%20final.pdf)

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## CKF Prepares for Dissemination

CKF Staff are preparing to lead two workshops at major conferences this Spring.

The first is the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP), held in Eau Claire, April 1-3. At this annual conference for UW-Extension professionals, CKF will present the CHILD Project and explain the work of the coalition. This gathering provides an excellent opportunity to increase the number of CKF program partners and create a better understanding of BadgerCare Plus.

The second is the Priester National Extension Health Conference, held in North Carolina, April 8-10. CKF will present the concept of creating school partnerships with professionals focused on health care.

## Enhancing CKF Outreach

UW-Madison student **Jennifer Le** is volunteering her time to assist Covering Kids & Families with the production of outreach materials. Jennifer came to CKF through a course on Health Care Issues for Individuals, Families and Society. She is focusing on updating CKF's Family Medicaid Brochure. These brochures are localized to each county in Wisconsin and provide information about BadgerCare Plus, FoodShare, W-2, Wisconsin Shares, Energy Assistance and School Lunches. CKF greatly appreciates the volunteer work of students and other outreach workers. If you, or someone you know, is interested in volunteering, contact the CKF office at: 608.261.1455 or [info@ckfwi.org](mailto:info@ckfwi.org).



## CKF Co-Chair Corner | Looking Ahead

By Andy Heidt & Kathy Kaelin, CKF co-chairs



Last summer CKF shifted its focus to the CHILD Project, to increase health insurance coverage among Wisconsin's children by better connecting the schools' free and reduced price lunch program with BadgerCare, now BadgerCare Plus. We are pleased to announce that outreach strategies have been wrapped up for the first year of Project! CKF work is now focused on evaluating the strategies that were implemented and planning for expansion into new school districts in year two. The CHILD Project will continue to focus on students receiving free and reduced price lunch, knowing that low income students are more likely in need of health care coverage. At the same time, we are in an exciting position to reach even more students given BadgerCare Plus' expanded eligibility. CKF Staff are working with the Department of Public Instruction to develop tools to collect health insurance status from schools, allowing us to identify and reach out to all families in need of health care coverage.

We'd also like to encourage you to pull out your calendars and mark Cover the Uninsured Week, April 27—May 3, 2008. Our Outreach Committee is compiling a list of ways coalition members can get involved. A few ideas include: distributing BadgerCare Plus materials, writing a letter to your editor, and providing application assistance during the week. This is an ideal time to show your organization's commitment to reducing the number of uninsured children and families in our state. Additional details will be provided via our listserv. If you'd like to be added to CKF's listserv, email Jeni Bingen [jlbingen@wisc.edu](mailto:jlbingen@wisc.edu).

**"We are in an exciting position to reach even more students given BadgerCare Plus' expanded eligibility."**

Covering Kids & Families' work will not be done until all people in Wisconsin have health insurance!

## Have Questions About HMOs?

For information regarding BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid SSI HMO Enrollment, get in touch with an HMO Enrollment Specialist from Automated Health System, Inc. An HMO Enrollment Specialist provides education about HMO choices and answers your questions. Please call the Enrollment Specialists at: 1.800.291.2002.

# CKF Member Profile | WPHCA

THE WISCONSIN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION, (WPHCA) provides education, advocacy, training and other services and support to Wisconsin's 17 Community Health Centers. With 10 staff members, they work daily to advance the efforts of the Community Health Centers in providing access to comprehensive, community-oriented primary health care services. Community Health Centers are federally designated clinics that focus on providing high quality health care for those who are traditionally underserved because of financial, geographical, cultural or other barriers, regardless of ability to pay. Health Centers are an integral part of the health care safety net. The Health Centers accept commercial insurance, BadgerCare Plus and other public insurance programs, and apply a sliding fee scale for those without insurance. Health Centers are governed by a board of at least 51% consumers, to engage patients in other aspects of their health care and remain responsive to the needs of the primary clients.

Health Centers are focused on welcoming people of all ages to "medical homes" where they can access preventive care like screening and vaccinations; learn to manage a chronic disease, be treated by providers who speak their own language and respect cultural traditions, and get referrals or receive on-site treatment for dental and mental health issues. In addition, Health Center leaders and staff are experts on developing policy and advocating for those whose health is jeopardized by any number of factors, but mainly because they cannot get into the health care system. In 2007, Wisconsin Community Health Centers treated more than 160,000 patients at more than 60 sites. Ninety percent of the patients were low income and 62% had family incomes at or below the federal poverty level.

For more information or to locate a Community Health Center, visit [www.wphca.org](http://www.wphca.org) or call the office in Madison, 608.277.7477.

## CKF Policy, Outreach, and Steering Committees

CKF hosts three monthly committee meetings (all via conference call):

**1. Outreach Committee** - Oversees communication and outreach efforts with the goal of helping to increase access to health insurance. This committee takes an active role in Cover the Uninsured Week, the Back to School Campaign and the Annual CKF State Coalition Meeting.  
Meetings: second Thursday of the month, 3-4 pm.

**2. Policy Committee** - Helps understand and formulate discussions surrounding public health programs in Wisconsin and nationally. Current policy issues and priority areas include: BadgerCare Plus, the Family Planning Waiver and Medicaid/SCHIP.  
Meetings: third Thursday of the month, 3-4 pm.

**3. Steering Committee** - Represents the CKF Coalition as a whole and functions as an independent body to foster communication and collaboration amongst all members. The SC is specifically looking for representatives from a faith community, business community, county enrollment agency, and the school system.

To participate in any of the meetings or to be added to a committee listserv, email Jeni Bingen [jlbingen@wisc.edu](mailto:jlbingen@wisc.edu).



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## BadgerCare Plus Q & A

**Q** If a child is aging out of foster care and turns 18 while incarcerated, is he/she eligible to receive BadgerCare Plus?

**A** No. According to the BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook section 11.2 “Youths who were in foster care, subsidized guardianships or court-ordered Kinship Care on their 18th birthday, qualify for a special status under BC+ when they leave out of home care if all the following conditions are met:” Condition 3h states that the youth must not be an inmate. The full section can be viewed online <http://www.emhandbooks.wi.gov/bcplus>.

For more answers to common questions about BadgerCare Plus visit: <http://www.badgercareplus.org/faq.htm>.

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\$90	The cost of a child's health insurance for an entire month, in the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan. <sup>7</sup>
\$21	The state share of the cost in 2007 of covering a child under BadgerCare for an entire month. <sup>8</sup>
\$5,605	The average cost in Wisconsin of hospitalizing a child with asthma. <sup>9</sup>
400%	The increased chance that an uninsured child will rely on an emergency room for routine care, compared to children with Medicaid coverage. <sup>10</sup>
770%	The increased chance that an uninsured child has no usual place to get health care, compared to children with Medicaid coverage. <sup>11</sup>
370%	The increased chance of death for an uninsured Wisconsin child admitted to a hospital due to injuries, compared to insured children. <sup>12</sup>

To view references visit: [http://www.wccf.org/pdf/hc\\_fiscallyresponsible\\_%20final.pdf](http://www.wccf.org/pdf/hc_fiscallyresponsible_%20final.pdf).