



# covering kids & families Wisconsin

Issue XIII

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## Covering Kids and Families-Wisconsin: Request for Proposals for Local Efforts

Covering Kids and Families-Wisconsin has secured federal match dollars and will be allocating a total of up to \$30,000 to assist Wisconsin organizations in improving access to Medicaid and/or BadgerCare for children and families by either:

- The formation of local coalitions or other community collaboration efforts
- Expansion of local coalitions or other community collaboration efforts

Applicants should have a developed or readily accessible infrastructure of individuals and organizations committed to outreach among populations likely eligible for Medicaid/BadgerCare. Applicants should also be able to provide additional funding and/or in-kind resources and the ability to demonstrate a plan for sustainability.

Grants will be awarded in amounts of up to \$7,500 and administered through subcontracts with Covering Kids and Families-Wisconsin. Dane, La Crosse and Milwaukee counties, home to current CKF-WI pilot projects, are ineligible. Funds will be available over a 14-month period beginning June 1, 2006.

The Request for Proposals can be downloaded now via our website at: [www.ckfwi.org](http://www.ckfwi.org)

**Proposals Due:** May 1, 2006  
**CKF-WI Membership Votes:** May 5-10, 2006  
**Awards Announced:** May 12, 2006

**Questions?** If you have questions about the application process please contact Michael Jacob at [mbjacob@wisc.edu](mailto:mbjacob@wisc.edu) or 608-261-1455. Or attend the spring statewide meeting on April 26, 2006 (see information below), to receive technical support before the proposal deadline.

### Welcome to **CoverTheUninsuredWeek** 2006 May 1-7

Covering Kids and Families-WI is coordinating Cover the Uninsured Week efforts throughout the state. Visit: [www.ckfwi.org](http://www.ckfwi.org) for updates, events in Wisconsin and information on how you can use this important time to improve access to health care in Wisconsin.

Resources available through our website and at the statewide meeting on April 26th!

- Free outreach materials
- Op-ed templates to localize for your county
- Event suggestions

**REGISTER NOW**  
**Spring statewide coalition meeting:**  
**Wednesday April 26**  
**9:30am-2:45pm**  
**Wausau, WI**

*On the agenda:*

- Opening plenary: The environment for health policy change
- BadgerCare Plus Initiative
- Make A Plan for better health outreach showcase
- The future of CKF-WI
- Technical assistance on local project proposals
- ACCESS: on-line enrollment showcase

*On-line registration:*

[www.ckfwi.org/conf2006/index.cfm](http://www.ckfwi.org/conf2006/index.cfm)



## The Impact of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 on Healthcare in Wisconsin

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 narrowly passed by the House of Representatives (216-214) and was signed into law by President Bush on February 8, 2006. The bill:

- Affects the amount of government funds allocated to Medicaid
- Erects further enrollment barriers

Medicaid will be cut by \$4.8 billion over the next five years and Medicaid recipients will bear the burden through increased co-pays, premiums and deductibles.

After July 1, 2006, individuals applying for Medicaid or being reassessed for Medicaid coverage must provide proof of U.S. citizenship or nationality. This change in enrollment will be a significant barrier for many current and potential Medicaid recipients. No exceptions will be allowed, not even for the mentally or physically disabled populations. Fortunately, undocumented women receiving prenatal benefits under the BadgerCare expansion will not be affected.

Federal officials must issue guidance on what forms of documentation will suffice. It is expected that people will generally have to produce either a passport or a government-issued photo ID and a birth certificate. However, Wisconsin may be able to use its birth records database to automatically verify citizenship for people born in this state. That would take care of the verification for roughly 60 percent of Medicaid and BadgerCare participants, but about 300,000 current enrollees and many new applicants would still have to produce documentation. A survey conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that about 10 percent of low-income adults cannot easily produce a birth certificate and do not have a passport.

So, be prepared for increasing enrollment challenges when these changes are implemented coming this July. This is a significant change in enrollment that will negatively impact many eligible Medicaid recipients.



## Health And Well-being of Children 2005

The U.S. Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently released *The Health and Well-being of Children: A Portrait of States and the Nation 2005*. The researchers examined data on the child's overall health, health status, and use of the health care system. In addition, data were reported on school and out of school activities, health within the family, and qualities of the family's neighborhood and child care resources.

Wisconsin's data, in general, were comparable to national data. The percentage of Wisconsin's children who lacked insurance at some point last year was slightly lower than the national average, with 11.2% of children lacking insurance compared to 14.9% nationally. Areas of concern in Wisconsin included slightly higher percentages of children with mental health care concerns and children living in smoking households. To see the complete data for Wisconsin and further information on the study visit: <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/thechild/index.htm>



## Do you need help connecting families to health insurance?

By: Kathy Kaelin & Andy Heidt, CKF-WI co-chairs



This spring, Covering Kids and Families-Wisconsin, in partnership with Automated Health Systems, will host three trainings throughout the state on Medicaid Eligibility. If you work with low-income families and have encountered families without health insurance that you wish you could help, these trainings are for you! The purpose of these trainings is to bring people with varying levels of Medicaid expertise together to network and learn the basics of Medicaid and BadgerCare as well as specific tips for helping families through the application process. Trainings will be interactive and flexible to address the specific questions and concerns.

**Wausau:** Thursday April 27, 9:30-1:45

**Eau Claire:** Wednesday May 17, 9:30-1:45

**Appleton:** Thursday May 18, 9:30-1:45

For more information visit: [www.ckfwi.org](http://www.ckfwi.org). Sign-up today by emailing: [info@ckfwi.org](mailto:info@ckfwi.org) with your name, organization name and the training you wish to attend.