
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: BOYD
SUBJECT: CHIP OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT
DATE: 6/28/2000
CC: TELL
SIMMONS

Some states (e.g., Oklahoma, California, New York, Louisiana and Florida) provide a “finder’s fee” to outreach groups for each eligible CHIP application processed. These fees range from ranging \$25 to \$50. I recommend Mississippi following this process with a slight twist.

Rather than paying several different groups to obtain applications through public events and displays, we should have the Department of Human Services contract with the State Department of Education to enroll children at the start of school. We can provide a finder’s fee of \$10 to \$25 for each eligible application processed and make payment to the school districts.

For example in 1999-2000 school year, Greenville Public Schools had 6,759 children enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program (This program serves as the basis for the CHIP funding formula.). Under this policy (at \$15), Greenville Public Schools would receive \$100,385, if all 6,759 children were eligible for and enrolled in Mississippi Health Benefits. A summary of the potential awards is attached. This would be one-time money. The agreement could also specify how the money may be spent (i.e., computers, health-related activities, after-school programs, and educational supplies).

Agency estimates show that 85,000 children may be eligible for CHIP health insurance and another 40,000 children could be eligible for Medicaid (125,000 total eligible). Agency personnel note that these numbers are soft and may be dramatically different. However, if we assume that these are hard then the state will only pay \$1.88 million under the \$15 per eligible plan rather than \$4.82 million as indicated on the attachment. According to DHS staff, Mississippi has more than \$5 million available for this effort. According to DHS staff, \$5 million may be used to support this effort (TANF Delinking Fund).

Following the first or second month of school, we could then open the finder’s fee to advocacy and outreach organizations to go into communities. Please advise.