

MISSISSIPPI HEALTH BENEFIT PUBLIC SCHOOL INITIATIVE

General Information

1. Mississippi Health Benefits includes both Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP):
 - Program covers children 0-19
 - Continuous eligibility for one year
 - Children will be placed in the program for which they qualify
 - Children currently receiving Medicaid do not need to re-apply
 - To be eligible for CHIP, children cannot have had private health insurance in the past 6 months
 - There are no exclusions for pre-existing conditions
 - There are no premiums or deductibles
 - There is no need for a face-to-face interview with an eligibility worker
2. Needed documentation:
 - Completed application
 - Proof of age of children (birth certificate, school or health record)
 - Social security number for children applying for benefits
 - Documentation of one month's current income
3. Individuals approved for Medicaid will be eligible for benefits in the month in which they applied.
4. All individuals approved for CHIPS prior to the 21st of the month will be eligible for benefits on the first of the next month. All applications approved after the 21st of the month will be eligible for benefits on the first of the second month following the month of application.
5. The Division of Medicaid mailed applications directly to schools on August 7, 2000.
6. The point of contact for each school is the County Department of Human Services Director in the county where the school is located. The County Director will meet with the Superintendent and the principal of each school in their county to explain the program, provide assistance in the application process and respond to questions.
7. Schools may also call the Division of Medicaid at 1-877-543-7669 (1-877-KIDS-NOW) for assistance.
8. Only public schools are eligible for the \$20 finders fee. Private and parochial schools, child care centers and head start centers are not eligible for the finders fee.

9. This program will operate for sixty days, at which time it will be evaluated to determine if it should be continued or expanded to other entities.

Schools' Responsibilities

1. Disseminate Mississippi Health Benefit Applications to students in their schools.
2. Ensure that the school's ID code is clearly marked on all applications that the school disseminates. To ensure proper payment, the school code should be in the following format:

Project Identifier	District Code	School Code
<i><u>Same for all (SD)</u></i>	<i><u>(Must be 4 digits)</u></i>	<i><u>(Must be 2 digits)</u></i>

Example: Ashland Elementary School would code their application as SD 0500 04.

If the district code is three digits, place a zero in front. If the school code is a single digit, place a zero in front. Schools must be very careful with coding their numbers, as this is how approved applications will be tracked for payment.

3. Check applications for completeness, including verifying documentation. Parents must deliver or send applications to the school.
4. Mail or deliver completed applications to the Department of Human Services's (DHS) county office where the school is located. Please forward completed applications to the county DHS office as soon as they are received, as failure to do so may result in a child missing a month of health coverage.
5. In instances where a family has children attending several different schools, the school that returns the approved application first will receive credit for all approved children on that application.

Payment

1. The Department of Human Services will submit a computer generated list of all Mississippi Health Benefits approvals, by school, to the Division of Medicaid for payment on the 1st of each month. The Department of Human Services will also generate a list of all denials.
2. Schools will receive a \$20 finders fee for each child submitted on an approved application. Schools should receive their first "lump sum" check for all approved children 6-8 weeks after the Division of Medicaid receives the first monthly list of all approved students. Schools will then receive checks on a monthly basis.