



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



Frederick P. Cerise, M.D., M.P.H.
SECRETARY

April 19, 2004

Dear Human Resources Director:

I am happy to join with the Director of the Department of State Civil Service to ask your assistance on behalf of the Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP). For many lower income state employees, family health insurance coverage affordability is an issue, with premiums ranging from 10 percent to more than 30 percent of their gross monthly income.

LaCHIP is a health insurance program designed to provide quality health care to uninsured children and youth up to the age of 19 in Louisiana. Children can qualify for coverage under LaCHIP using higher income standards than those used for traditional Medicaid. For example, a family of four now can earn about \$3,230 a month and get health insurance for their children with no enrollment fees, no premiums, no co-payments and no deductibles.

While the percentage of uninsured children in Louisiana has been drastically reduced over the past five years, **much remains to be done**. A recent survey by LSU indicates that 77,000 uninsured Louisiana children are eligible for LaCHIP or Medicaid, but not yet enrolled. You can help us greatly by doing the following things:

- Distribute the attached flyers to educate employees within your agency about state programs to help uninsured children and adults with health coverage.
- Have your agency place either of these flyers and/or a link to the LaCHIP webpage (www.dhh.state.la.us/MEDICAID/LaCHIP) on your agency's Intranet.

Governor Blanco recently stated that **one of her immediate goals is enrollment of all eligible children in LaCHIP**. Reaching out to lower income state employees will help us reach this goal. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

Frederick P. Cerise, M.D. M.P.H.
DHH Secretary


Allen Reynolds
Civil Service Director