

The large and increasing number of children and adults without health insurance is a source of national concern. Most of the more than eight million uninsured children in the U.S. are eligible for Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) but are not enrolled. Most come from homes where at least one parent works full-time. Many Americans are not aware of the health coverage available for children in working families. The same holds true for adults who may qualify for health care under federal programs.

Covering Kids & Families Evaluation

Mathematica Policy Research and its partners, Health Management Associates and the Urban Institute, are conducting a large-scale evaluation for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation of its Covering Kids & Families (CKF) program. CKF supports state and local coalitions from both the public and private sectors in expanding Medicaid and SCHIP programs to all eligible children and adults. The Foundation funded 46 state grantees nationwide, representing a broad range of community-based organizations, private and government agencies, health care providers, and other groups. Each state grantee in turn funded at least two local grantees to serve as laboratories for innovation that could report on barriers to enrollment and strategies for outreach. The average state grant was over \$800,000.

The five-year evaluation focuses on:

- Documenting and assessing the strategies and actions of CKF coalitions
- Assessing the effectiveness of coalitions in conducting outreach; simplifying the application process; and coordinating state, federal, and private insurer efforts
- Measuring progress on CKF's central goal—expanding enrollment and retention of all eligible individuals in Medicaid and SCHIP
- Assessing whether CKF strategies are sustained after Foundation funding ends

The evaluation is providing extensive information about how the grantees function, drawing on site visits, focus groups, telephone interviews, and a survey of selected coalitions. It is also describing enrollment trends and assessing the impact of the grant program on enrollment, drawing on state enrollment data and case studies. Publications from the study can be accessed at www.rwjf.org/newsroom/featureDetail.jsp?featureID=1088.

To find out more, please contact the project director, Judith Wooldridge, senior vice president, (609) 275-2370, jwooldridge@mathematica-mpr.com.