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## **New Policies Reduce Red Tape for Families Using Health Coverage Programs**

*All Kids Covered applauds new health coverage efficiency initiatives.*

Covering uninsured kids and keeping them covered just got easier for parents and more efficient for state taxpayers. Effective today, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing has put in place three new administrative policies that will streamline the eligibility determination and enrollment processes for Medicaid and the Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+).

“During a tough economy, families’ budgets are even tighter than the state’s. Cutting the red tape helps both, providing health care to keep struggling families afloat, and getting more value for every taxpayer dollar,” said Brittney Petersen, Project Manager for Covering Kids and Families Colorado and leader of All Kids Covered.

The three new policies are as follows:

- **Income Verification** - Reduces the need for outdated paperwork requirements in favor of a new electronic Income Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) that allows Medicaid and CHP+ officials to verify income using data already collected from employers by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. This change, which applies to most Coloradans seeking Medicaid or CHP+ coverage, was made possible by state legislation passed in 2008 (Senate Bill 08-161).
- **Citizenship & Identity Verification** - Streamlines eligibility determinations by verifying applicants’ U.S. identity and citizenship electronically, directly from the U.S. Social Security Administration. This improves on prior requirements that applicants provide birth certificates or other paper documentation of U.S. citizenship and identity. This change was made possible by the federal Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009.
- **Automatic Reenrollment** – Eligible Coloradans who have had no change in their income or number of household members will be able to automatically re-enroll in Medicaid and CHP+ without having to return a renewal form.

“These improvements leverage technology to reduce bureaucracy and increase efficiency, while ensuring accountability. This is a win for families and a win for Colorado,” said Petersen.

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**[www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org](http://www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org)**

*All children in Colorado will have coverage through insurance or public programs that ensures access to a medical home providing appropriate and affordable health services.*