

**Implications for Health Insurance Coverage for Children and Families in Rhode Island
FY 2010 Budget (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010)
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT**

Budget Provision	Impact
<p>RIte Care Coverage will be Restored for Lawfully Residing Immigrant Children*</p> <p>RIte Care eligibility for immigrant children who are lawfully residing in Rhode Island who lost coverage in June 2008 will be restored. Federal matching funds are now available to the state via the federal Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for this population. Children will need to re-apply for RIte Care using a new application and providing all necessary income, citizenship, identity and other supporting documentation.</p> <p>Note: Coverage for immigrant children who are undocumented was <i>not</i> restored.</p>	<p>An estimated 1,300 children will be eligible.</p> <p>DHS has not announced an implementation date, but they will need about 3 months upon passage of the budget to accomplish all public and administrative tasks necessary for restoration.</p>
<p>Health Insurance Coverage for Pregnant Women was Preserved</p> <p>The RIte Care “buy-in” program for pregnant women (called SOBRA) with incomes between 250% - 350% FPL (\$44,000 - \$61,600 for a family of three in 2008) was preserved. Under this program, a pregnant woman pays a monthly premium of \$294.80 (the full cost of coverage) to one of the RIte Care health plans and receives RIte Care health insurance coverage that allows her to obtain prenatal care. The state covers the cost of the delivery (\$8,378).</p>	<p>The program is budgeted for 28 women total annually and will remain so.</p>
<p>Dental Coverage for Parents Enrolled in RIte Care was Preserved</p> <p>Parents of children enrolled in RIte Care will retain the fee-for-service dental benefit that they receive as part of RIte Care coverage, which will help to ensure that they continue to have access to oral health services needed to stay healthy, the dental safety net in Rhode Island will remain intact and the investments in oral health services in Rhode Island will be maintained.</p>	<p>38,000 parents will retain their fee-for-service dental benefit.</p>
<p>RIte Care Premiums Increases were Rescinded</p> <p>RIte Care premiums that were increased during Fall 2008 were rolled back to July 1, 2008 levels. The \$45 monthly RIte Care premium charged to families with incomes between 133% -150% FPL was eliminated and premium amounts for families between 150% - 250% FPL were reduced. Both premium changes went into effect as of May 31, 2009.</p>	<p>As of June 2008, there were 2,164 families (with 3,558 children and 2,584 parents) subject to the \$45 premium. Another 4,625 families (with 7,701 children and 2,691 parents) will now pay 3% of income toward premiums.</p>
<p>Emergency Department Visits will be Limited to 12 Per Year*</p> <p>The Emergency Department (ED) visit benefit will be limited for all persons over age 21 enrolled in Medicaid (including RIte Care and RIte Share members) to 12 visits to the Emergency Department per year.</p> <p>IMPORTANT NOTE – Although the FY2010 budget allows DHS to impose the ED visit limit on children as well, DHS is not currently planning to do so, instead choosing to limit ED visits only for adults over age 21.</p> <p>DHS estimates that few RIte Care members use the more than a few times per year. There are about 200 Medicaid members (less than 1%) who use the ED more than 120 times per year, mostly for mental health and substance-abuse related disorders. DHS aims to encourage hospitals to work with primary care/behavioral health care providers to develop medical homes for this population.</p>	<p>All RIte Care members over age 21 will have their benefit limited.</p> <p>It is not clear what will happen for RIte Care members over age 21 who need to use the ED more than 12 times in a calendar year.</p>
<p>Unpaid RIte Care Premiums can be Recouped via Tax Intercept*</p> <p>The State of Rhode Island can seek to recoup unpaid RIte Care premiums from current or former RIte Care members from state income tax returns, as is the case with other state benefit programs.</p>	<p>This will be added to calendar year 2009 state income tax returns.</p>

** DHS will hold a public hearing on these policy changes on September 2, 2009 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Davinci Center for Community Progress, 470 Charles St., Providence. Target implementation date for all policies is October 1, 2009.*