



# Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

## Susana Wilson Interim Director

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## Press Release

Date: November 10, 2009

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Megan Van Sant, Program Administrator  
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## Enrollment in Healthy Families Program Re-Opened, Just in Time for Flu Season

*More than 200 local children previously on waitlist  
now eligible for enrollment into state's children's health insurance program*

Mendocino County families whose children are without health insurance are urged to apply for the Healthy Families Program, which offers comprehensive medical, dental and vision coverage to children in families whose income is too high to qualify for Medi-Cal, but who do not make enough to afford comprehensive private health insurance. The upper income limit for a family of four is \$55,128. Healthy Families has re-opened enrollment into the program for new applicants and is processing the applications of children currently on the waitlist. The Healthy Families waitlist had been initiated on July 17 of this year due to budget cuts and funding shortfalls.

Enacted in 1997 and reauthorized in February by President Obama, the Healthy Families Program provides more than one million California children with affordable access to comprehensive health care. The Program has experienced record monthly enrollment in the past 18 months as more and more families lose employer-based health coverage and parents struggle to make ends meet.



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“We are relieved and pleased that children in Mendocino County once again have access to the essential medical, dental and vision coverage they need to stay healthy,” said Megan Van Sant, program coordinator for Healthy Kids Mendocino. “We strongly encourage families with uninsured children to contact us for assistance with an application to the Healthy Families Program, Medi-Cal for Children, or CalKids as soon as possible. As we head into an unprecedented winter flu season, it’s critical to have access to health care providers in place to safeguard your children.”

If you have uninsured children, know of children in need of health insurance, or would like more information, please call Healthy Kids Mendocino at 463-KIDS (5437) or visit our website at [www.healthykidsmendocino.org](http://www.healthykidsmendocino.org). Healthy Kids Mendocino is a public-private partnership that was founded by the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency, FIRST 5 Mendocino, and the Alliance for Rural Community Health. Advocates are available to assist families with health coverage enrollment for their children at locations throughout Mendocino County. Please call for assistance.

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