



Do youth you serve have health insurance? If not, then how can Court Counselors help?

- **Learn about the state's child health insurance programs** so that you feel comfortable promoting Health Check (Medicaid for Children) and NC Health Choice. You do not have to be an expert!
- **Display Health Check/NC Health Choice Posters.**
- **Complete the NC JOIN Family Data Sheet "Medical Insurance Profile":**
 - Ask if the youth is currently insured by Health Check (Medicaid), NC Health Choice or private insurance.
 - Enter the youth's insurance information.
 - Distribute an "envelope stuffer" if the youth is currently uninsured and encourage them to enroll.
 - Keep a small supply of "application forms" on hand if the family is ready to apply (or you can print the form using the link from the DJJDP Web Site: http://www.ncdjdp.org/employment/employee_news.html).
 - Remind them of the need to re-enroll once a year and that a re-enrollment packet will arrive by mail. To receive it their address must be kept current with the local Department of Social Services.
 - Every 90 days, update the Medical Insurance Profile. If the youth was previously uninsured, this is an opportunity to see if they enrolled in Health Check/NC Health Choice.
 - For Court Counselors working with youth about to be discharged from a Youth Development Center, coordinate with the local DSS in the youth's county of residence so that eligibility can begin on the date of discharge.
- **Refer families who have questions to toll-free line or Web site** on envelope stuffer.
- **Encourage families to go to their local DSS if they need help filling out the application form.**

What Resources are Available?

DJJDP Link to Health Check/Health Choice Materials:

http://www.ncdjdp.org/employment/employee_news.html

- Links court counselors to the following Health Check (Medicaid) / NC Health Choice materials on the "DJJDP Partnership" page (<http://www.nchealthystart.org/outreach/DJJDP/index.htm>) of the NC Healthy Start Foundation Web Site:
 - Orientation PPT Presentation
 - Facts at a Glance Handout
 - Child Health Insurance Applications in English and Spanish
 - Listing of Local DSS Addresses and Phone Numbers.
 - Online Order Form [To order FREE bilingual (English/Spanish) envelope stuffers, posters & application forms!]
 - Directory of Health Check Coordinators [Local outreach staff].
 - Child Health Insurance Web Page

NC Healthy Start Foundation:

www.nchealthystart.org

- Families can access information and application forms through the Child Health Insurance Web Page. Click on "For the Public" and "Child Health Insurance" (left tool bar).

NC Family Health Resource Line:

1-800-367-2229

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. -5 p.m. in English & Spanish

- Educates about Health Check and NC Health Choice Child Health Insurance Programs.
- Mails single copies of print materials/application forms to families upon request.
- Refers families and youth for local assistance and helps link youth to health care providers.

Children with Special Health Care Needs Helpline:

1-800-737-3028

A toll-free line for those living with, caring for or concerned about a youth with special health care needs. (For families & professionals).

- Educates about Health Check / Health Choice insurance benefits.
- Provides information & referral to state and local resources.
- Links to providers / specialists.
- Helps problem solve.

Questions?

For Questions About the Partnership Between DJJDP & the Division of Public Health:

- Martin Pharr: 919-733-3388 (Ext. 8187) or Martin.Pharr@ncmail.net
- Judy Stephens: 919-733-3388 (Ext. 8243) or Judy.Stephens@ncmail.net

For Questions About Health Check / NC Health Choice:

- Carolyn Sexton: 919-707-5642 or Carolyn.Sexton@ncmail.net

For Questions About Ordering Materials:

- Ania Boer: 919-828-1819 or Ania@NCHealthyStart.org



Child Health Insurance Facts at a Glance

North Carolina has two publicly-funded health insurance programs for children and youth:

- **Health Check (Medicaid Program for Children)**
- **NC Health Choice** (Covers many children who do not qualify for Medicaid).
 - o Both are very similar in what they offer.
 - o Both programs are marketed together.
 - o One application form is used to determine eligibility for both programs.

See Health Check / NC Health Choice Envelope Stuffer for:

- Income Guidelines
- List of the comprehensive benefits covered by both insurance programs.
- Toll-free number to call for more information (**NC Family Health Resource Line at 1-800-367-2229**)
- **Child Health Insurance Web Site (www.NCHealthyStart.org)**.

For both programs the youth must:

- Be a NC resident
- Be under age 19 (21 in some cases)
- Be eligible based on family income
- Provide or apply for a Social Security number

For NC Health Choice, a youth must:

- Be income ineligible for Health Check (Medicaid)
- Be uninsured on the day coverage starts
- And, have paid the annual enrollment fee (if it is required).

How much does it cost?

- For Health Check (Medicaid), there are no annual enrollment fees.
- For NC Health Choice, the annual enrollment fee depends on the family's income.
 - o Some families have NO annual enrollment fee.
 - o Some families pay \$50 per child or \$100 for 2 or more children.

Is a youth of immigrant parents eligible?

- Yes, if the youth was born in the USA and they qualify based on the family's income.
 - o The youth will need a Social Security Number to apply.
- Maybe, if the youth was born abroad.
 - o It depends on their immigration status. Check with the local DSS to find out.

Note: Parents and youth DO NOT hurt their chances for naturalization by applying for children's health insurance!

How do families apply?

- Obtain an application from the toll-free line (1-800-367-2229), web site (www.NCHealthyStart.org), local DSS, health department or a DJJDP court counselor.
- Complete the application and either mail or take the application to the local DSS. Remind families to:
 - o Attach copies of wage stubs or proof of income for the previous month.
 - o Include a phone number where the DSS worker can call if they have a question.
 - o For US Citizens, the DSS will also need proof of citizenship and identity (for example a certified US Birth Certificate and a government-issued photo ID card or driver's license). DSS can help obtain documents.
- Need help filling out the form? Go to the local DSS.
- DSS will notify the family by mail to let them know if their children qualify. This can take up to 45 days.
- If the family qualifies, they will receive an insurance card and benefits booklet in the mail.

Thank you for helping families apply for health insurance so that the youth you serve will have access to the community-based services they need!