

# NEWS RELEASE



## DHCS ISSUES STATEMENT ON 25 YEARS OF CHIP

SACRAMENTO – Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Chief Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director Jacey Cooper today issued the following statement on the 25th anniversary of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP):

"DHCS and the state of California join the nation today in recognizing the 25th anniversary of CHIP. Created in 1997 and implemented here in 1998, CHIP has expanded health care coverage to millions of children, supporting our vision of a healthy California for all.

CHIP coverage was initially established in California under a separate CHIP agency as the *Healthy Families Program*. It immediately helped address the troubling gap in health coverage impacting children and families whose incomes were too high to qualify for Medi-Cal, but too low to afford comprehensive private health coverage. Along with the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid expansion in 2014, Medi-Cal was able to expand coverage, and others who weren’t eligible for Medi-Cal were able to find affordable, subsidized coverage under Covered California’s health plans.

Today, CHIP continues to play an important role, providing comprehensive coverage for higher-level income children in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties who are not eligible for Medi-Cal, and for pregnant individuals, regardless of immigration status.

Importantly, CHIP has helped meet the important need for continuity of care. As a result of federal legislative changes, children and pregnant individuals in CHIP and Medicaid programs are able to retain eligibility for 12 continuous months.

Finally, we are pleased that the federal government earlier this year approved our proposal to provide 12 months of continuous postpartum coverage to individuals enrolled in CHIP.

CHIP and Medi-Cal reflect our fundamental conviction that all Californians deserve quality health coverage. DHCS is proud to salute CHIP and continue overseeing its important role in expanding health care coverage in our state.”

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