



## 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](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](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](http://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](mailto:Martin.Pharr@ncmail.net)
- Judy Stephens: 919-733-3388 (Ext. 8243) or [Judy.Stephens@ncmail.net](mailto:Judy.Stephens@ncmail.net)

#### For Questions About Health Check / NC Health Choice:

- Carolyn Sexton: 919-707-5642 or [Carolyn.Sexton@ncmail.net](mailto:Carolyn.Sexton@ncmail.net)

#### For Questions About Ordering Materials:

- Ania Boer: 919-828-1819 or [Ania@NCHealthyStart.org](mailto: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).
  - Both are very similar in what they offer.
  - Both programs are marketed together.
  - 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](http://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.
  - Some families have NO annual enrollment fee.
  - 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.
  - The youth will need a Social Security Number to apply.
- Maybe, if the youth was born abroad.
  - 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](http://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:
  - Attach copies of wage stubs or proof of income for the previous month.
  - Include a phone number where the DSS worker can call if they have a question.
  - 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!**