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Governor Highlights Children's Health Insurance Program

AUSTIN –Gov. Rick Perry has proclaimed October as “CHIP/Children’s Medicaid Awareness Month” to help more families learn about low or no-cost health coverage available to them.

The two programs provide health coverage to families who earn up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. That’s \$41,300 a year for a family of four. Currently in Texas, more than 2 million children – one out of every three children in the state - are covered by CHIP or Children’s Medicaid.

“I encourage all Texans who work with and care for children to find out more about CHIP and Children’s Medicaid and how to apply for these important programs,” Gov. Perry wrote.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), which administers CHIP and Children’s Medicaid, has enlisted the help of community organizations, schools, churches, retailers, businesses and other government agencies to share information about the programs with low-income families. Anchored by the www.chipmedicaid.org website, this network has engaged families without health care coverage and encouraged them to apply for the programs.

“We are committed to making sure families know about the health and medical benefits available through Children’s Medicaid and CHIP,” said Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Albert Hawkins. “We understand that community and faith-based organizations are trusted sources of information for families. We want to work together to tell more families about how CHIP and Children’s Medicaid can help keep Texas children healthy.”

For more information about CHIP and Children’s Medicaid, visit www.chipmedicaid.org or call 1-877-KIDS-NOW. That toll-free hotline is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday except on federal holidays.

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