
**Texas CHIP Coalition
Principles
for the 77th (2001)
Texas Legislative Session**

SIMPLIFY Application for Children's Medicaid so it is like CHIP: *Make the TexCare Partnership application and process apply to both Medicaid and CHIP, so that Department of Human Services (DHS) workers would need only the TexCare application to determine if the child is eligible for Medicaid:*

1. Replace the face-to-face interview at initial application¹ with mail-in or phone in applications, and reduce required documentation so that Medicaid matches CHIP.
2. Eliminate the assets test.
3. Implement 12 months continuous eligibility.

Provide RESOURCES to Ensure Improved Access to Children's Medicaid and CHIP, including:

1. Adequate appropriations to allow for enrollment growth in Children's Medicaid and CHIP.
2. Sufficient numbers of well-trained DHS Eligibility Caseworkers to handle larger numbers of Medicaid applications, including out-stationing more DHS workers at health centers, hospitals, malls, schools and other key public places.
3. Increase reimbursements to attract and retain sufficient numbers of providers in Medicaid and CHIP.

Increase OUTREACH and Public Awareness for Children's Medicaid and CHIP, including:

1. Triple funding for outreach to \$15 million and double funding for marketing to \$4 million, and allow these funds to be used for Children's Medicaid as well as CHIP.
2. Extend Community Based Organizations' application assistance to both Children's Medicaid and CHIP.
3. Pursue all available federal funding for outreach and increase efforts to target outreach to address hard to reach populations.

¹ THE DHS BOARD HAS PROPOSED, BUT NOT IMPLEMENTED MAIL-IN OR PHONE RE-CERTIFICATION FOR CHILDREN'S MEDICAID