



What Colorado and its children and families have at stake in SCHIP* reauthorization

- **176,000 Colorado children are uninsured**, including many who are eligible for health coverage through SCHIP and Medicaid.¹
- **Colorado's rate of uninsured low-income children (29 percent) is the highest in the United States.**²
- Colorado is one of just 7 states in that had an increase in the rate of uninsured low-income children between 1997 and 2005 - the increase of 4.5 percent was the highest in the nation.³
- Colorado is second-to-last, behind Texas, in the rate of uninsured low-income parents (46.6 percent) and the 15.9 percent increase in this uninsured rate between 1997 and 2005 was higher than any other state in the nation.⁴
- SCHIP provides 40,000 Colorado children with affordable health coverage through *Colorado Child Health Plan Plus*.⁵
- Since 2000 Colorado has returned \$55 million in SCHIP funds to the federal treasury for redistribution to other states.⁶
- For the first time in 2005 Colorado spent its full allocation of SCHIP funds.
- If Congress does not add new funding to the SCHIP program but instead adopts proposals to redistribute unspent funds, **Colorado could lose \$47 million dollars in federal funds, enough to provide health coverage to 31,000 children.**⁷
- Less than half (49 percent) of Colorado children in families with income below 300 percent of poverty are covered by their parents' employers.⁸
- Adequate funding for Medicaid and SCHIP is essential to Colorado's health care infrastructure. For example, 41 percent of all births in the state are financed by Medicaid and SCHIP.

*State Children's Health Insurance Program

¹ Kaiser Family Foundation, www.statehealthfacts.org

² Kaiser Family Foundation, www.statehealthfacts.org

³ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' analysis of publicly available data from the Census Bureau

⁴ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' analysis of publicly available data from the Census Bureau

⁵ Kaiser Family Foundation, Medicaid and SCHIP enrollment reports (September 2005)

⁶ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

⁷ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2006