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

- No state has benefited from SCHIP as much as Louisiana, which reduced the rate of uninsured low-income children from 27 percent in 1997 to 12 percent in 2005.[1] Louisiana has what is widely viewed as one of the most successful SCHIP programs in the country.

- **But 100,000 Louisiana children still lack health coverage**, many of whom are already eligible for SCHIP and Medicaid. [2]

- Louisiana parents depend on Medicaid and SCHIP as an affordable option to provide health coverage for 611,000 children.[3]

- In 2007 Louisiana received $90 million in federal SCHIP funding, but needed $110 million in federal funding to keep current children enrolled.

- Louisiana faces a shortfall in federal funding in 2008 that could reach $100 million by 1012. [4]

- If Congress does not add new funding to the SCHIP program **50,000 Louisiana children are at risk of losing coverage by 2012.** [5]

- Half of all Louisiana children under the age of 18 depend on Medicaid and SCHIP for their health insurance coverage. [6]

- Most parents in Louisiana cannot to obtain family health coverage at work. The state has the third lowest rate of children covered by employers (39 percent).[7]

- Adequate funding for Medicaid and SCHIP is essential to Louisiana's health care infrastructure. For example 56 percent of all births in the state are financed by Medicaid and SCHIP. [8]

- Children's coverage is relatively inexpensive and prevents more costly visits to the emergency room. In 2005 it cost just $1,100 to provide coverage to a child.
- Filling the SCHIP shortfall and increasing federal funding to help states enroll eligible children and expand coverage is essential to Louisiana covering all children..

* State Children's Health Insurance Program

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[1] Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' analysis of publicly available data from the Census Bureau
[2] Kaiser Family Foundation, www.statehealthfacts.org
[3] Kaiser Family Foundation, Medicaid and SCHIP enrollment reports (September 2005)
[4] Center on Budget Policy and Priorities based on data from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
[5] PICO National Network based on Center on Budget Policy and Priorities SCHIP Financing model
[6] Kaiser Family Foundation, Medicaid and SCHIP enrollment reports (September 2005)
[7] U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2006
[8] Kaiser Family Foundation, www.statehealthfacts.org