



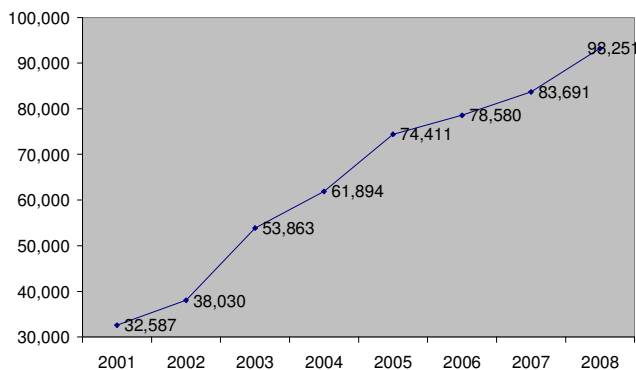
Reauthorize SCHIP in the First Hundred Days: A Brief for Virginia's Congressional Delegation and Advocates



The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) provides high quality, affordable health coverage to more than 4 million children in the United States who would otherwise be uninsured. Virginia's SCHIP program is called "Family Access to Medical Insurance Security" (FAMIS). See www.FAMIS.org

Since its establishment in 2001, FAMIS has provided insurance coverage to approximately 450,000 children in Virginia. Current FAMIS enrollment is approximately 93,000 children.¹

FAMIS Enrollment



Congress should quickly reauthorize SCHIP in 2009 with adequate funding to serve all eligible children

It is imperative that the next Congress act quickly to reauthorize and strengthen SCHIP, **which otherwise will expire on March 31, 2009**. Congress must provide states with the financial resources necessary to secure, improve and expand their health insurance programs for children.

Thanks to the Medicaid and SCHIP programs, the number of uninsured children in the United States has been reduced. This progress is a testament to the effectiveness of existing public programs and to the strong support nationwide for covering children.

- However, there are still 8.1 million uninsured children in the United States.²
- The weak economy is also threatening coverage for a growing number of America's families.
- Virginia is already projecting a \$24 million shortfall in federal SCHIP funding by July 2009.³ Additional federal funding will be essential to keep the Virginia's FAMIS program intact.

Federal investment in SCHIP will have positive effects on Virginia's economy

For example, if SCHIP reauthorization included \$50 billion in additional funding, approximately \$824.7 million in new federal funding for children's health coverage would be available in Virginia over the next five years⁴. Families USA, a non-partisan health advocacy organization, predicts this infusion of funding will over five years create:

- \$354.6 million in increased business activity,
- \$125.8 million in increased wages, and
- 3,775 additional jobs in Virginia.⁵

There are too many uninsured children in Virginia

- While enrollment is at its peak, there are still 187,000 uninsured children in Virginia.⁶
- More than 100,000 of these uninsured children are actually eligible for FAMIS or FAMIS Plus, but they are not enrolled.

Virginia's SCHIP program has four components:

1. **FAMIS** – Health insurance for children up to age 19 with income from 133% - 200% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL). In 2008, 200% FPL is \$35,200 / year for a family of three.
2. **FAMIS Plus** – Medicaid insurance for children up to age 19 with family income under 133% FPL. SCHIP funding pays for some of this coverage.
3. **FAMIS Select** - Families with FAMIS-eligible children can opt for a \$100 per-month-per-child subsidy to help purchase private insurance.
4. **FAMIS Moms** – A program for pregnant women with income up to 185% FPL (increasing to 200% FPL in July 2009)

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¹ DMAS, retrieved October 15, 2008 at: <http://www.famis.org/reports.cfm?lang=English>

² U.S. Census Bureau, August 2008

³ "DMAS Division of Maternal and Child Health Update", p. 20, presented to Child Health Insurance Program Advisory Committee (CHIPAC) 9/11/08.

⁴ Families USA, SCHIP Reauthorization: What's at Stake for Virginia, May 2007, retrieved October 14, 2008 at

<https://www.policyarchive.org/bitstream/handle/10207/6041/virginia-schip.pdf?sequence=1>

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, August 2008