

## 9 - Health Care Access for Children

**1. Program Area:**

COMMUNITY SERVICES

**2. Agencies and Departments involved:**

Health Care Agency (HCA)

**3. New or previously identified in earlier Strategic Financial Plans, if previously identified, what has changed and why:**

This need has previously been identified. As a result of a request from the Board of Supervisors the Health Care Agency has completed a new, comprehensive review of children's health insurance, and has developed a plan for expansion of the County's activities in this area. The results of that study have been incorporated into this Strategic Priority.

**4. Description of the project/program - what it is and what it will achieve:**

Health insurance coverage improves the health of children and provides significant benefits to the community. It is estimated that 40,000 children in Orange County lack health coverage. About 19,000 of these children are currently eligible for coverage under the state's Medi-Cal or Healthy Families programs.

Statewide, a model known as the Children's Health Initiative (CHI) has been developed to enhance enrollment in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families and to provide coverage options for children who do not qualify for existing programs. There are 26 counties with CHI's active or in the planning stages.

A CHI is being established in Orange County. A possible plan for county participation in this CHI could involve:

1. Fielding two teams of workers to help enroll children in the state Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs.
2. Expanding the Healthy Families program to include children who have legal residency status and are in families with incomes from 250% to 300% of poverty guidelines. This would require a one-third local match.
3. Funding a public awareness program to support enrollment activities.
4. Funding an evaluation of the effectiveness of the enrollment effort.

**5. Personnel - will the program/project require additional staffing? If so, estimate number of positions:**

No regular County positions are being requested. Twenty Health Access Coordinators and 2 Senior Health Access Coordinators will be needed. For the purpose of this priority, all 22 positions will be contracted out.

**6. Cost - estimate and identify costs:**

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet for cost information.

**7. Potential Funding Sources:**

Net County Cost; State and Federal matching funds

*Please refer to the attached spreadsheet for funding information.*

**8. Community Awareness (stakeholders):**

Health Care Agency, Social Services Agency, medical providers, other community agencies, and Orange County families with children

**9. Mandated or discretionary:**

Discretionary

**10. Implementation period if funding were available:**

Three years

