CH1LDREN NOW

PICO California

The Children's Partnership

## What Families Should Know About Changes to the Healthy Families Program

In this year's state budget, Governor Brown and state lawmakers decided to move all 875,000 children enrolled in the Healthy Families Program into the Medi-Cal program in order to combine the state's health care services for children into one program. Medi-Cal is a state program that provides comprehensive medical, dental and vision coverage to millions of Californian children.

**Healthy Families children will not move to Medi-Cal until January 2013 at the earliest.**

- For parents with children in Healthy Families, nothing about your child's health coverage will change immediately.
- Families will receive a notice from the state at least two months before any change in their child's coverage.
- The move is expected to happen in four phases – individual move dates will vary depending on where the child lives and the child's current health plan.

**Children will not lose health coverage.**

- While the move may require some families to choose a new health plan or change their doctor or dentist, children currently in Healthy Families will continue to have comprehensive health insurance, with no gap in coverage.
- Medi-Cal coverage includes all the benefits of Healthy Families coverage, including mental health benefits.
- The cost of premiums will *not* increase, and families with incomes determined to be at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty line will no longer be charged premiums once they move to Medi-Cal.

**Healthy Families and Medi-Cal remain open for enrollment and families can still apply today for either program.**

- Families can still apply for free or low-cost health coverage for their children in Healthy Families or Medi-Cal. To apply, families can:
  - Call 1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669);
  - Visit www.healtheapp.net;
  - Find a local certified application assistor (CAA) by visiting http://bit.ly/N1Dos6; or
  - Visit your county social services office (find locations at http://1.usa.gov/Nj3as3).

Parents with children in Healthy Families should watch for a series of mailed letters from the state, which will provide information about any steps families need to take before moving to Medi-Cal. Families who receive renewal notices for their Healthy Families coverage should

CH1LDREN NOW

continue the renewal process to ensure they maintain continuous coverage. Families should also continue to pay their Healthy Families monthly premiums to maintain continuous coverage.

**Questions or problems with accessing children's health care or coverage should be directed to the Health Care Help Center (1-888-466-2219).**