



Alabama State Project

Covering Alabama Kids

GRANT AMOUNT: \$983,259

START DATE: May 1, 1999

INTERVENTION: Schools
Businesses
CBO Training
Faith
Americorp Volunteers

TARGET POPULATIONS: Adolescents
Latino/Hispanic
African-American

Grant Overview

There are approximately 65,000 uninsured Alabama children living at or below 200% of poverty. These children are eligible for one of three existing state health insurance programs -- ALL Kids, Medicaid, or Blue Cross Blue Shield's Caring Program for Children. Covering Alabama Kids seeks to assure that eligible, uninsured children enroll in health coverage programs by working closely with Alabama's CHIP program ALL Kids, Medicaid, the Alabama Department of Human Resources and the Alabama Child Caring Foundation to develop a strong, coordinated system that identifies and enrolls children through a more simplified and family-friendly process. Community-based pilot projects in Coosa, Jefferson and Washington counties will provide the testing ground for determining the best strategies for accomplishing Covering Kids goals and statewide replication efforts. The state coalition will look to the local coalitions to provide them with feedback on the best strategies and procedures that work to enroll eligible children into health coverage programs. Site coordinators will be engaged in the pilot communities endorsed by each of the insuring entities to increase efforts of enrollment by working with the local school system and to help ease the work overload experienced by local eligibility workers. Additionally, a state educator and a site educator in Jefferson County will be engaged to provide education and training to agencies, organizations and lay persons throughout the state to help get families enrolled and provide for a cohesive information structure. Focus groups with both families and agency personnel will be included in this process.

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STATE PILOT PROJECTS: [Jefferson County Pilot](#)

[Washington County Pilot](#)

[Coosa County Pilot](#)



Alabama Pilot Project

Jefferson County Pilot

INTERVENTION: Providers
Schools
Faith
Americorp Volunteers

TARGET POPULATIONS: Latino/Hispanic
African-American

Pilot Overview

Jefferson County contains the largest population of uninsured children in the state with an estimated uninsured population of 26,125. As Covering Alabama Kids, Jefferson County Pilot site moves into its third year the pilot site office has transitioned into the Jefferson County Department of Health for development of long term school and community coordinated outreach. The pilot site with direction from both the Community Resource Representatives and the School Health and Education Department will develop more focused outreach activities to the target communities of Jefferson County. The pilot site will focus attention on two of the counties' largest school systems, Jefferson County and Birmingham City Schools. The pilot site staff will seek to train counselors, teachers and nurses in the school systems on the children's health insurance programs, eligibility requirements and on how to successfully assist eligible families in completing the applications. Birmingham Area Libraries will be targeted as neighborhood application assistance locations to make it easier for the families to access. In addition, the pilot site will utilize partnerships with Jefferson County Department of Health, United Way, AmeriCorps, Family Court, Department of Human Resources, Children's Policy Council, and Jefferson Health System to foster appropriate and effective community outreach activities in a wide variety of settings (i.e. health clinics, churches, schools, libraries, neighborhood meetings and community resource events).

Jefferson County has an emerging Latino population, The pilot site will be working closely with the Jefferson County Department of Health, the Catholic Diocese of Birmingham, El Latino Newspaper, and the Central Alabama Alliance for Latino Health to formalize a network of service organizations that provide services and assistance to the Latino residents. As part of its special focus on Latino families, Jefferson County is bringing the informal Latino service network members on board as a special subcommittee of their local coalition. It is hoped that this formalized status will provide an impetus for the development of a more concrete approach for providing services to the entire Latin community in Jefferson County.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Jefferson County Health Department

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Alabama Pilot Project

Washington County Pilot

INTERVENTION: Businesses
Schools
Faith

TARGET POPULATIONS: Rural/Frontier

Pilot Overview

Washington County faces extensive health and social service barriers as a rural county with limited resources. Covering Alabama Kids will work with the Southwest Alabama AHEC (SWAHEC) to carry out program objectives and deliver services to residents of Washington County. SWAHEC is a community-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health of the communities in its service area. SWAHEC maintains a solid relationship with the educational, health and social service delivery systems in Washington County, as demonstrated by their sponsorship of health/resource fairs, continuing and community-based education programs. As a special focus, Washington County will have a small business initiative. The purpose of this special initiative is to raise the awareness and provide educational opportunities to the small business community in Washington County concerning the need and availability of health insurance for eligible children. The site coordinator will sponsor local town meetings with small business, chambers of commerce, and other business organizations to discuss what the Covering Alabama Kids project is and how the provision of health insurance for children impacts both the business and local community.

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Alabama Pilot Project

Coosa County Pilot

INTERVENTION: CBO Training
Schools
Faith

TARGET POPULATIONS: Families with low literacy levels
Rural/Frontier

Pilot Overview

Caring for Coosa's Children is a grassroots community-based organization that works to ensure children are linked appropriately with community resources. A site coordinator assists local agencies in coordinating services and identifying eligible uninsured children by working with the local school system and faith community. Coosa County represents a unique challenge as a rural community with few social and economic resources. The county has only one full time physician, no hospital, and a Medicaid eligibility worker is available only two days a week. Because of the high rate of illiteracy in the county (72% of adults function at or below Level 2 literacy) Caring for Coosa's Children will focus on developing outreach materials and techniques designed to help enroll families with literacy barriers.

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