



Minnesota State Project

[Healthy Families Minnesota](#)

GRANT AMOUNT: \$841,977

START DATE: June 1, 1999

INTERVENTION: Schools
CBO Training
Businesses
Providers
Subsidized Child Care System

Grant Overview

The MinnesotaCare program, which provides low-cost coverage for uninsured children in families with incomes up to 275% of the federal poverty guidelines, currently covers nearly 60,000 kids (under age 21). Despite this, the uninsured rate among Minnesota's children has remained at a relatively constant level of 5% for the past several years. Current estimates indicate that there are 48,000 uninsured children (18 and under) in the state and, of these children, 80% may be eligible for partially or fully subsidized health coverage. Two pilot projects have been established to develop strategies to identify and enroll under-served children as well as strategies to assure continuation of coverage for eligible children. The pilot communities are Minneapolis and Olmsted County. In addition to the pilot projects, simplification of the enrollment process has been a major objective of the statewide project. Efforts in this area resulted in the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) introducing a new 4-page application form, reduced from 20 pages, which serves as a joint application for Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare and the State General Assistance Medical Care program. The Minnesota Covering Kids project is now working with DHS to develop a one-page application form for children only. Minnesota Covering Kids also is focusing on coordination among state programs that target similar populations of children such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program, the sliding fee child care program and WIC. A major success in this area is the launch of a pilot program in fall 2001 to identify and enroll children through the Free and Reduced School Lunch program. Minnesota Covering Kids provided valuable research and technical assistance for this pilot program, which is a joint effort between DHS, the Department of Children, Families and Learning and about 10 school districts in the state. Another major project undertaken by Minnesota Covering Kids is the creation and coordination of a statewide coalition of government, community and health care leaders who come together to address issues concerning health care coverage, access, evaluation and disparities.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota
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STATE PILOT PROJECTS: [Olmstead County Pilot](#)

[Minneapolis Public Schools Pilot](#)



Minnesota Pilot Project

Olmstead County Pilot

INTERVENTION: Businesses
CBO Training
Child Care

Pilot Overview

The Olmsted County pilot focuses on outreach and enrollment, particularly with low-wage working families who may not realize their children are eligible for subsidized coverage. Families receive initial screening and information from a broad range of providers including health, education, and social service providers before being referred to pilot project staff. Staff are responsible for following up with parents wanting more information and/or assistance in applying for health coverage. Pilot project staff is located within Olmstead County and work in close proximity with county eligibility workers. Pilot project staff also focuses on outreach at community clinics and sponsored events throughout the year.

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Minnesota Pilot Project

Minneapolis Public Schools Pilot

INTERVENTION: Schools
Providers

TARGET POPULATIONS: African-American
Latino/Hispanic
Asian American
Immigrant
Somali

Pilot Overview

The Minneapolis pilot project is a joint effort of the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support and the Minneapolis Public Schools, with the cooperation of Hennepin County. The focus of the project is to identify and enroll eligible children in health coverage programs. The primary strategy is to reach out to parents new to the community when they bring their children to the Minneapolis Public Schools' Welcome Center to register them for school. Families without health coverage are informed of their health coverage options, and project staff are available to assist in the enrollment process. In addition, partners that work with families have committed to doing health coverage outreach at the point-of-service. Efforts include educating parents about the value of insurance, conducting eligibility screening and assisting families of children who appear eligible with the application process. The front-line partners include six community clinics, 19 private clinics, the Minneapolis Public Schools Welcome Center, school nurses and social workers, the city's hospitals and community cultural leaders working with Hennepin County's Community Health Department.

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