



Minnesota Covering Kids & Families Initiative

GRANT OVERVIEW

The MinnesotaCare program, which provides low-cost coverage for uninsured children and their families with incomes up to 275% of the federal poverty guidelines and adults without children up to 175% of poverty, currently has an average monthly enrollment of 155,000 people. Because of MinnesotaCare, the uninsured rate in Minnesota has remained at a relatively constant level of 5% for the past several years. Current estimates indicate that there are approximately 266,000 uninsured people in Minnesota and that nearly half of them may be eligible for fully or partially subsidized public health coverage. In looking at children, Minnesota has about 56,000 uninsured kids (under 18) and nearly 70% of them might be eligible for the public programs. Under the Covering Kids and Families Project, four local projects have been established to identify and help enroll uninsured children, families and adults in public health coverage programs (which include MinnesotaCare, Medical Assistance and General Assistance Medical Care) or help them find other services if they do not meet the public programs eligibility criteria. The local projects are in Minneapolis (serving residents of Hennepin County), Olmsted County, the east metropolitan area (serving residents of Ramsey, Dakota and Washington Counties) and in Northern Minnesota (serving residents of Beltrami and Cass Counties). Although the local projects serve anyone who is uninsured, they each focus on strategies and interventions to reach targeted groups of underserved populations. Minneapolis looks for new ways to assist immigrant groups and African Americans, Olmsted County focuses on migrant workers and farming families, the east metro pilot focuses on the Latino population and the Beltrami/Cass County project will focus on Native Americans and rural poor. In addition to improving outreach through its local projects, the statewide Covering Kids and Families project is involved in initiatives to simplify the enrollment process, to increase retention in the public programs and to coordinate the health care initiatives with other programs. A unique tool developed by Covering Kids in Minnesota is called the Covering All Families website which consolidates eligibility criteria for seven programs for low-income families including the health care programs, school lunch program, the working family tax credits and public child care programs. Community organizations, churches, and tax assistance programs are being trained on how to use the website to most effectively help low-income families find out about all the programs for which they are eligible. Minnesota's Covering Kids and Families project is assisted in its efforts by the statewide coalition called Cover All Kids. Minnesota's Covering Kids and Families project and members of its coalition are also involved with the Supporting Families project that is piloting techniques to improve retention in the health care programs, Building Bridges project that is piloting health outreach programs within the school districts, and Cover the Uninsured Week. In light of inordinate budget cuts in Minnesota, coalition members are very involved in advocating to save the health care programs and in stimulating further discussions on universal health care issues.

GRANT AMOUNT

Children: \$800,000
Adults: \$200,000

START DATE

July 1, 2002

END DATE

June 30, 2006

TARGET POPULATIONS

Children and Families

INTERVENTIONS

Business
Child care providers
Providers
Schools

LEAD ORGANIZATION

Children's Defense Fund Minnesota

covering kids & families

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Local Projects in Minnesota

Beltrami County Local Project
MetroEast Local Project
Minneapolis Local Project
Olmsted County Local Project



Beltrami County Local Project

GRANT OVERVIEW

The Beltrami/Cass County project is a partnership between *Covering Kids & Families*, the Bemidji Area Indian Health Service, and the Ojibwe Tribal Health Division. The CKF outreach worker, who is Native American, rotates to various locations throughout the two counties to provide one-on-one outreach and assistance to families in need of health care coverage, focusing on the needs of Native Americans. Two of the target locations for the outreach worker are Red Lake and Leech Lake Indian Reservations. The outreach worker also makes presentations and assists families at schools, community organizations, health fairs and other events.

TARGET POPULATIONS

Native Americans
Rural families

INTERVENTIONS

Provider/Clinic Sites
Community-based organizations
Tribes
Schools

LOCAL ORGANIZATION

Beltrami County Local Project

CONTACT

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MetroEast Local Project

GRANT OVERVIEW

The MetroEast Local Project is a partnership between *Covering Kids & Families* and the MetroEast Program for Health. MetroEast receives referrals from the HealthEast hospitals and clinics to assist clients who come to these facilities without health insurance. Outreach workers assist clients in applying for the public programs and if they don't qualify for these programs, they are enrolled in MetroEast's unique program that provides preventive services through participating HealthEast hospitals and clinics. In addition to handling referrals from the clinics and hospitals, outreach workers visit WIC sites, churches, health fairs, schools and other community organizations to give out information and assist families with their health insurance needs. The MetroEast site serves residents of Ramsey, Dakota and Washington Counties and under the CKF grants looks for effective ways to assist Latino families with health coverage needs.

TARGET POPULATIONS

INTERVENTIONS

Provider/Clinic Sites
Community-based organizations
Hospitals
Schools

LOCAL ORGANIZATION

MetroEast Local Project

CONTACT

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Minneapolis Local Project

GRANT OVERVIEW

The Minneapolis Local Project is a partnership between *Covering Kids & Families*, the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support and the Minneapolis School District. The CKF outreach workers are located in the Minneapolis Public School's New Families Center where all kids new to the Minneapolis public schools are sent for screening for immunizations, English proficiency and health insurance. Those without health insurance are sent to visit with the CKF workers who assist them in filling out public program applications and trouble shoot the application process. Outreach workers also go out into the community and visit WIC sites, alternative high schools, health fairs, churches and other sites to assist families with their insurance needs. The Minneapolis site serves residents of Hennepin County and focuses on finding effective ways to assist immigrant and African American families.

TARGET POPULATIONS

African Americans
Immigrant families

INTERVENTIONS

Community-based organizations
Providers
Schools

LOCAL ORGANIZATION

Minneapolis Local Project

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Olmsted County Local Project

GRANT OVERVIEW

The Olmsted County Local Project is a partnership between *Covering Kids & Families* and Olmsted County Community Services. The CKF outreach worker's office is located within the county. However, she spends her time in the community at different sites to assist families with filling out the health care application and answering questions about health insurance. The Salvation Army Free Clinic, Migrant Health and a low-cost dental clinic are the main sites for the outreach worker. At renewal time, the CKF outreach worker calls clients to make sure they complete the renewal process, which has resulted in more than a 90% renewal rate. The Olmsted County site serves residents of Olmsted County and focuses on finding effective ways to assist migrant and farming families.

TARGET POPULATIONS

Farming families
Migrant workers

INTERVENTIONS

Community-based organizations
Schools

LOCAL ORGANIZATION

Olmsted County Local Project

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