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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children’s Coverage Trends Reveal a Clear Bright Spot in Illinois Health Care

New Report Shows State Continues Making Progress

November 20, 2013 (Chicago) – Illinois’s commitment to children’s health insurance coverage is paying off, according to a report released today by the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families. Between 2010 and 2012, nearly 40,000 children gained coverage statewide, reducing the uninsurance rate to 3.3 percent. Illinois is a national leader in kids’ coverage, with the 4th lowest percentage of uninsured kids.

“Growth in coverage rates is particularly encouraging at a time when we’re seeing the number of children and families falling into poverty grow,” said Andrea Kovach, of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law. “Health insurance coverage greatly improves the economic security of families who are faced with tough budget decisions on a daily basis. Fortunately, Illinoisans have new coverage options through the Affordable Care Act, which means we should expect to continue making progress on children’s coverage in 2014 and beyond.”

Illinois’s new health insurance marketplace – Get Covered Illinois – opened for business on October 1, but families need to sign up by December 15 to be covered in January. The Medicaid expansion and insurance marketplace provide Illinois new opportunities to reach and enroll uninsured children when we cover their parents.

“The All Kids program is an example of a federal-state partnership that works,” said Joan Alker, author of the Georgetown University report. “All Kids is improving health insurance coverage for children and is a testament to what states can accomplish when they lean in and work with the federal government to meet the needs of their residents.”

“Illinois residents and its leaders should be proud of the progress we’ve made improving children’s coverage,” said Ms. Kovach. “And we should be excited about more of their parents getting coverage for the first time as a result of new coverage choices under the ACA. When every member of the family has coverage, kids are more likely to get regular preventive care to keep them healthy and see a health care provider sooner when they are sick.”

To learn about health insurance coverage options, Illinoisans can visit GetCoveredIllinois.gov or call (866) 311-1119. Or they can be connected to an in-person assistor by visiting GetCoveredIllinois.gov.

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