



Neighborhood Networks launches Nationwide Children's Health Insurance Enrollment Effort

Summer 1999

Supporting President Clinton's initiative to provide health care coverage to as many as 11 million children, Neighborhood Networks recently kicked off a nationwide grassroots effort to enroll children in the \$24 billion Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which was signed into law by the President in August 1997.

CHIP is a state-administered health insurance program, which provides coverage to uninsured children up to age 19.

The program benefits parents whose income is too high to qualify them for Medicaid and who do not receive or cannot afford health insurance through their employer.

The kickoff event was held April 17 at The Vantage and The Parke at the Edgewood Terrace Apartments in Washington, DC. It was the first of a series of events taking place at Neighborhood Networks centers throughout the nation. More than 80 Neighborhood Networks centers have expressed interest in working with the CHIP Neighborhood Networks collaboration to provide health care insurance to children.

The Edgewood event was sponsored and organized through a Neighborhood Networks collaboration with the National Consortium for African American Children, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and HOPE For Kids, whose volunteers assisted residents in enrolling children in CHIP. Capital Community Health Plan, a local health maintenance organization, provided free health screenings.

In February 1998, President Clinton formed the Interagency Children's Health Outreach Task Force consisting of eight federal agencies, including HUD. The agencies were directed to examine ways they could coordinate efforts to reach eligible children and bolster public awareness about the number of children without access to health care. For more information about CHIP, contact Ruth Fisher of Neighborhood Networks at 1-888-312-2743.

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(From left) Charles Famuliner, HUD Neighborhood Networks national field director; Brenda Leath, president and CEO, National Consortium for African American Children; Leslie Steen, president, Community Preservation and Development Corp.; Cora Dixon, program committee member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, North Atlantic Region; Sherilyn Pruitt, public health analyst, Bureau of Primary Health Care; and Pamela Lockett, program director, HOPE For Kids, Inc., share an informal moment before the program.



Charles Famuliner, HUD Neighborhood Networks national field director, welcomes a representative of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, one of the CHIP event sponsors.



Volunteers for HOPE For Kids acquaint residents with the CHIP initiative.