

Health Coverage for Low-Income Kids in San Mateo County

Overview; Healthy Families and Healthy Kids

Providing universal health care coverage for children is a priority in San Mateo County, and the Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) is proud of its role in helping achieve this goal. Not only does HPSM provide coverage to the majority of Medi-Cal eligible children in the County, including children with special health care needs, but we also operate two programs specifically dedicated to insuring children: Healthy Families and Healthy Kids.

HPSM launched its Healthy Families program in 1998 under California's version of the joint state-federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As one of two health plans offering Healthy Families products in San Mateo County, HPSM demonstrates high quality and value to attract and maintain enrollees in a competitive market.

In 2003, HPSM launched the Healthy Kids program, which was created and funded by the Children's Health Initiative, a broad-based public-private partnership dedicated to providing health insurance to all children in San Mateo County. While HPSM serves as the sole Healthy Kids managed care plan in the County, its services and benefits are based on the Healthy Families program, and both programs adhere to a high standard of service delivery that contributes to their success.

Who are our Members?

HPSM Healthy Families and Healthy Kids together cover approximately **11,132** children in San Mateo County. Children must be 18 years old or younger with family incomes up to 250% of the federal poverty level for Healthy Families or 400% of the federal poverty level for Healthy Kids. Children cannot be eligible for other coverage programs, and for the Healthy Families program, immigration and residency requirements apply. Additional demographic information is provided to the right.

What Services Do We Cover?

HPSM provides a comprehensive array of services for both the Healthy Families and Healthy Kids programs, including but not limited to:

- Doctor visits
- Medical supplies
- Health education
- Prescription drugs
- Hospital services
- Vision and hearing services
- Physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy
- Emergency and urgent care services

Dental services are also provided under the Healthy Kids program.¹

¹ Children receive dental services through separate dental carriers under the Healthy Families program.

We fight to make a difference in our community.

701 Gateway Blvd. Suite 400 South San Francisco, CA 94080

**the
healthy
fight.**

What Makes Our Children's Coverage Special?

With our Children's Health Initiative partners and health care providers throughout San Mateo County, we have achieved numerous successes in health care coverage for children that demonstrate the strength of collaboration, commitment, and vision.

Universal Coverage

- All children in San Mateo County without private insurance and with family incomes up to 400% of the federal poverty level qualify for health insurance through one of our programs. San Mateo County is the only county in California to offer coverage to children above 300% of the federal poverty level.
- Implementation of the Healthy Kids program and related outreach efforts have led to a reduction in the number of uninsured children from **17,000** children in 2001 to only **2,000** children in 2007.²
- San Mateo County remains only one of two Healthy Kids programs in California to continue enrollment of children without a waiting list.
- Improved Access and High Quality of Care
- HPSM maintains a robust provider network for both Healthy Families and Healthy Kids, including a large number of traditional and safety net providers. This accomplishment has led to HPSM's consistent designation as the Healthy Families Community Plan Provider for San Mateo County by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board.
- Member satisfaction surveys in 2007 for the HPSM Healthy Families program produced scores that were significantly above the average of plan performance. These were for measures reflecting family centered care and all measures on counseling and screening for young adults.³
- An independent five-year evaluation of the Healthy Kids program⁴ showed that the program has had a significant impact on access to care, including:
 - Dramatic increases in the proportion of children with a usual source of medical or dental care (30% and 40%, respectively);
 - Significant increases in the proportion of children with a medical or dental visit in the past six months (8% and 41%, respectively)
 - Substantial increases in the proportion of children with preventive health visits in the past six months (almost 20%);
 - Marked reductions in unmet medical or dental needs (13% and 10%, respectively); and
 - A virtual elimination of cost as a reason for unmet medical or dental needs.

²California Health Interview Survey. 2007.

³California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board Benefits and Quality Monitoring Division. June 2008. *Healthy Families Program Member Satisfaction Survey Report 2007*.

⁴Howell E, Hughes D, Palmer L, Kenney G, Klein A. May 2008. *Final Report of the Evaluation of the San Mateo County Children's Health Initiative*.

