



The Faces and the Facts: Coverage Provides Peace of Mind

Colorado parents work hard to give their kids what they need. Yet, for many working families, health coverage is becoming [less available](#) and [more expensive](#). As difficult as fiscal times are for the state, they are even worse for many Colorado families. Their budgets are hurting for the same reasons we have a state budget shortfall – job losses, foreclosures, and soaring health care costs. As a result, it is more important than ever that we maintain our commitment to providing stable health coverage for our kids.

Meet Lori and her 7-year-old son

Raising a family these days often feels like “living on the edge,” says Lori, a mother from Durango. For her, having coverage through the Children’s Health Plan Plus Program (CHP+) provides peace of mind because she knows her son’s health care is covered at an affordable rate.

Both Lori and her husband work. Yet, her husband’s place of employment does not offer coverage to its employees. While Lori’s place of employment does offer coverage, it is extremely expensive for her family to purchase given their total family income of \$35,000 per year.

Now, an active seven-year-old boy, CHP+ ensures coverage for the well child visits Lori’s growing son needs. The program has even covered three sets of stitches for her little one – a set just recently, as well as another two from when he was 2.5 and 4.

Unfortunately, the last episode of stitches was very serious. Lori’s child injured his finger at summer camp. The injury was so severe that he was taken by ambulance to the hospital. The medical bills, in the thousands, were covered by CHP+. Like many parents, it was a relief to Lori and her husband knowing their son would receive needed care at such a critical time because they had coverage for him.

Covering kids -- especially now -- provides peace of mind for Colorado families

- Nearly [94%](#) of uninsured children in Colorado come from families where at least one parent works.
- Health insurance premiums for Colorado’s working families have [risen by 86.9](#) percent—4.2 times faster than median earnings -- during the past ten years.
- 1 in 10 parents – and 1 in 5 low income parents – report having [delayed](#) taking their children for a routine exam, dental visit, or specialist due to the recession.
- Colorado has the fastest growing rate of kids living in poverty in the nation, with an [85% increase](#) over the last nine years.

Our opportunity is now. Colorado kids can’t wait.

Learn more and view referenced links at www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org; contact Gretchen.Hammer@ccmu.org with questions.