

Horizon NJ Health
Community Health e-Notes
July 26, 2005
NJ FamilyCare
"Special Edition"

Family Health Care Coverage Act Signed Into Law

The Family Health Care Coverage Act was signed into law by Acting Governor Richard J. Codey, on Wednesday, July 13, 2005. From the very first section of this act, the New Jersey State Legislature addresses what they see as the most serious health problem facing approximately 1.2 million New Jersey residents, including approximately 264,000 children: "the lack of access to affordable health care coverage." This act expands the NJ FamilyCare Program to include working adults who previously were ineligible. The act calls for subsidized health insurance coverage at little or no cost to parents and their children possibly starting as early as September 2005. The reformed NJ FamilyCare Program has been designed to simplify the enrollment and renewal processes by including features, such as a one-page application, an on-line application, revised eligibility criteria and renewal methods, while removing unnecessary barriers for applicants and enrollees.

"Passage of this act is great news for New Jersey," commented Karen L. Clark, President and Chief Operating Officer for Horizon NJ Health. "When access to care is limited, working adults and their families have little recourse for preventive care and disease management. These individuals and their children already face limited access and obstacles for appropriate care. This legislation is a significant step in helping to dispense with certain obstacles to cover more people and it opens the way for many more New Jersey residents to have the opportunity for living a healthier life. I would like to thank bill's prime sponsors throughout this long process: Senator Joseph F. Vitale (D-Middlesex) and Assemblyman Robert L. Morgan, M.D. (D-Monmouth) and, certainly, thanks to Governor Codey."

Family Health Care Coverage Act Prime Sponsors - Senator Vitale, Assemblyman Morgan

As Chairman of the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee, Senator Vitale has long been committed to providing health care to New Jersey families who cannot afford it. In crafting this legislation, Senator Vitale worked with academic experts, health care providers and children's advocates to find a solution for the more than one million people in New Jersey without health insurance. Assemblyman Morgan, M.D., a member of the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee and a leader in the fields of pediatrics, public health and infectious diseases, has fought hard for better health care in New Jersey and was instrumental in the introduction of this legislation to reform the NJ FamilyCare Program.

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How to Apply for the NJ FamilyCare Program
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To obtain a NJ FamilyCare application, call the State's Health Benefits Coordinator (HBC) at 1-800-701-0710. An application will be mailed upon request or the application may be downloaded from the NJ FamilyCare Web site at http://www.njfamilycare.org/pages/apply_njfc.html. For more information on the NJ FamilyCare Program or to receive personal assistance with completing the NJ FamilyCare application, applicants may call Horizon NJ Health's trained representatives at 1-800-628-9094 ext. 5039. For more information about the NJ FamilyCare Program, please visit the Horizon NJ Health Web site at http://www.horizonNJhealth.com/members_nj_family.asp?urlSection=members.

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New State Health Benefits Coordinator - Affiliated Computer Services, Inc.
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The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services of the New Jersey Department of Human Services recently contracted with Affiliated Computer Services, Inc. (ACS) to serve as the state's health benefits coordinator for Medicaid Managed Care Programs beginning July 1, 2005. ACS provides a broad range of services for New Jersey families, such as determine eligibility for the NJ FamilyCare Program; screen and process applicants; provide outreach, marketing, education and communication; conduct and maintain enrollment with managed care organizations; handle call center operations and mailroom services.

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