

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to 42 CFR § 457.65, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any state plan amendment that limits or restricts eligibility in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), known as the Georgia's PeachCare for Kids Program.

### **PEACHCARE FOR KIDS**

Pursuant to Title XXI of the Social Security Act, the PeachCare for Kids Program (the "Program") is a jointly funded state and federal insurance program for low-income children. On March 11, 2007, the Department discontinued enrollment in the Program.

President Bush signed a fiscal year 2007 supplemental appropriations bill that included funding for SCHIP. Congress approved the legislation that appropriated \$650 million for states with SCHIP shortfalls wherein Georgia's Program will receive approximately \$121,304,715.

Effective July 12, 2007, the Department shall resume enrollment in the Program. However, the department will maintain an enrollment limit of 295,000 children. This enrollment limit has been defined by the Department in order to ensure the shortfall funding and redistribution of 2004-2005 national surplus adequately supports the on-going provision of healthcare to members through September 30, 2007.

Without the passage of SCHIP reauthorization legislation that reauthorizes SCHIP to continue after September 30, 2007, SCHIP programs nationwide, including the Georgia Program, will cease. Reauthorization legislation, correction of the current flawed federal funding formula, and adequate funding is required to continue the Program beyond October 1, 2007.

The enrollment limit will be reassessed based on availability of funding once SCHIP is reauthorized or otherwise extended by Congress.

This public notice is available for review at each county Department of Family and Children Services office and will also be published in regional newspapers and on the Georgia Department of Community Health's website. An opportunity for public comment will be held on June 27, 2007, 1:00 pm, in the 40<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, 2 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during the meeting should call (404) 656-4479. Citizens wishing to comment in writing on the proposed changes should do so before July 5, 2007, to the Board of Community Health, P.O. Box 38406, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

Submitted comments will be available for review by the public at the Department of Community Health, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Room 4074, 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Comments from written and public testimony will be summarized and provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the July 12, 2007 Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed change at the July meeting which will be held 10:30 a.m. at the Floyd Room of the Twin Towers Building, 20th Floor, West Tower, 200 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 14<sup>H</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2007

Rhonda M. Medows, M.D., Commissioner