



Educates children, strengthens families and builds community

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Louisiana surpasses goal to provide uninsured children with health care benefits

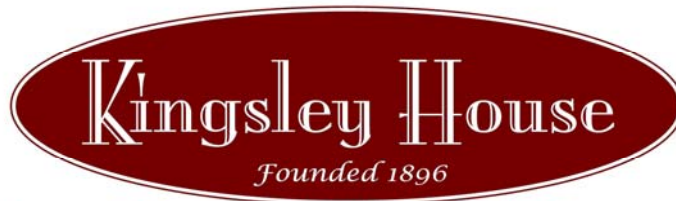
Kingsley House, LaCHIP ensure more children have health insurance

Governor Bobby Jindal recently announced that the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) surpassed its annual LaCHIP and Medicaid enrollment goals. The success stems from federal approval in January to expand coverage to insure more children from lower income and working families. In response, DHH and its community partners have aggressively sought to insure as many qualified children as possible through an extensive grassroots outreach campaign. With these concentrated efforts, more than 646,000 children in Louisiana are now covered by Medicaid and LaCHIP, exceeding the initial enrollment goal by 11,000 children.

Kingsley House is one of 11 DHH statewide partner agencies coordinating outreach and enrollment blitzes as part of the Louisiana Covering Kids & Families coalition, and has spearheaded the effort in the Bayou region. In addition to the Bayou region, Kingsley House's Health Care For All (HCFA) Program has been conducting door-to-door outreach for nearly 10 years in New Orleans. The "Walkers/Talkers" - as they are commonly known - walk door-to-door in neighborhoods of Central City, Algiers and New Orleans East to educate and help families enroll in LaCHIP. In the nine and a half years that HCFA has been in operation, the program has helped more than 8,000 individuals enroll in Medicaid and LaCHIP.

With the addition of the new LaCHIP Affordable Plan, which will provide low-cost health insurance to children whose families' income levels exceed qualifications for standard no-cost LaCHIP coverage, the Walkers/Talkers are aiming to boost their outreach endeavors to include businesses. At a time when families are struggling to make ends meet, LaCHIP Affordable Plan provides greater access to health care. The program began accepting applications April 15, with new enrollees receiving access to services beginning in June. An additional 6,500 children are expected to be covered by this expansion.

For more information, visit www.lachip.org or www.kingsleyhouse.org



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About Kingsley House

Founded in 1896, Kingsley House has served the children and families of New Orleans through tough times of dramatic change. Today, Kingsley House educates children, strengthens families and builds community at a time even more vital in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Since the storms, Kingsley House nationally-accredited programs have served more than 10,000 children, youth, parents, senior citizens and medically disabled adults in 12 parishes throughout Southeast Louisiana. Kingsley House programs include Head Start and Early Head Start preschool programs, day care for senior citizens and disabled adults, after school education and recreation for youth, family counseling, and assist families in Medicaid and Food Stamp enrollment.