

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT: TIP SHEET FOR PROGRAMS

Head Start programs can play a vital role in making sure individuals learn how to find and apply for affordable health insurance. Most of our Head Start children have health insurance, but many of their parents and family members do not. Access to affordable health insurance is vital to ensuring that children are healthy and ready to learn. Linking parents and family members of enrolled children to health insurance will help to support our Head Start children in becoming ready for lifelong learning.

EXPANDING INSURANCE COVERAGE

Many Head Start family members—including parents, older siblings, and grandparents under age 65— may qualify for coverage. The Affordable Care Act provides states the choice and additional federal funding to expand their [Medicaid](#) programs to cover people who make up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level.

MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY

The rules for Medicaid eligibility are different for each state. Most states offer coverage for adults with children below a certain income level, as well as pregnant women, some seniors, and people with disabilities. Family members of enrolled Head Start and Early Head Start children may now qualify for Medicaid and should contact their state's Medicaid office for more details.

HOW TO APPLY

Encourage families to visit [Healthcare.gov](#) or [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](#) and fill out an application starting **Nov. 1, 2016** to find out if they'll qualify in 2017. Interpreters in 150 languages are also available by phone. To speak with an interpreter, say "Agent" or press "0." Once an agent is on the line, say the name of the language you need.

1-800-318-2596 TTY 1-855-889-4325

REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT DATES:

- Open enrollment begins **Nov. 1, 2016** and ends **Jan. 31, 2017**; as always, individuals may apply for Medicaid or CHIP at any time.
- Health coverage can start on **Jan. 1, 2017**.



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

