

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP)

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), expands the State Medicaid program to specifically serve low-income uninsured children. CHIP provides FREE medical coverage for children under age 19. Examples of medical payments include: physician, hospital, dental, nursing care, home health care, family planning, clinic, rehabilitation hospital, prescription drugs, and certain diagnostic services, as well as certain Special Education Services provided by school districts.

WHAT IS CHIP?

The purpose of Medicaid/CHIP is to assure the availability of quality medical care, including certain special education costs, to families who meet income eligibility. If financially eligible, children are eligible with or without private health insurance. The program is financed jointly by state and federal government and is run by the South Dakota Department of Social Services.

BENEFITS TO FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS

School districts are required to provide special education services to all eligible children. However, in an effort to maintain the highest quality of special education services to all eligible children and their families, the districts are now seeking assistance in accessing funds for certain special education costs. The benefits for eligible children and their families are two-fold. First, the cost of most medical services for your child will be paid for by CHIP/Medicaid. Second, the school districts now have available a funding source to help defray the cost of special education services provided at the local level.

WHAT SCHOOL SERVICES ARE COVERED?

The South Dakota Medicaid/CHIP program provides coverage of services in School Districts for the following special education related services when they are provided by properly licensed or certified professionals: Psychological services, physical therapy services, occupational therapy services, speech therapy services, audio logical services, and nursing services. These services are provided as a part of an evaluation or an individual education program (IEP/IFSP).

WHAT WILL IT COST ME?

Special education services are provided to the parent at no cost. With your voluntary approval by signing the form on the reverse side, the school district will be allowed to file for CHIP/Medicaid reimbursement at no cost to you, and you will not lose any CHIP/Medicaid benefits. The funds received from Medicaid will be used by your School District to enhance Special Education services.

HOW DO I BECOME ELIGIBLE?

An application is available through your local Department of Social Services office. The Social Service Department in Elk Point is located on West Main St. (next to McLaury Engineering, across from the Post Office). Phone number is 605-356-3346. Check with your local Social Services for current income guidelines.

CHIP provides health insurance coverage to children whose family income is up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (monthly income of \$3,675 for a family of four without private health insurance or \$2,573 monthly income for a family of four with private health insurance).