



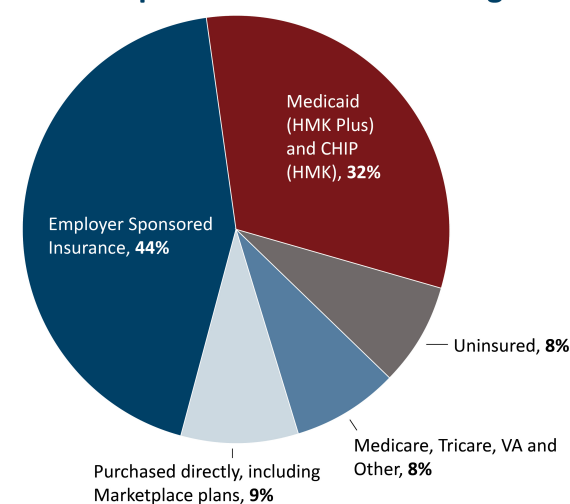
# Montana Families Rely on the Children's Health Insurance Program

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides vital coverage for thousands of Montana's children. Federal funding, however, expired at the end of September 2017, jeopardizing financial stability for families and for the state.

## The Children's Health Insurance Program in Montana

- Congress created CHIP in 1997 to expand coverage to children in families with incomes too high to qualify for traditional Medicaid, but who may not be able to purchase insurance or receive coverage through an employer.
- In Montana, CHIP and Medicaid operate under the **Healthy Montana Kids (HMK)** umbrella.<sup>1</sup> This includes Children's Medicaid, a CHIP-funded Medicaid expansion, and a separate CHIP program.
- CHIP in Montana covers families with incomes up to **261% of the federal poverty level (FPL), or \$64,206 for a family with two parents and two children. Chip-funded Medicaid expansion covers families up to 143% of FPL (\$35,178).**
- HMK covers over 123,000 children. **Over 23,000 of these children are enrolled in CHIP, and nearly 7,000 in CHIP-funded Medicaid Expansion.**<sup>2</sup>
- **One out of every three** children in Montana receives their health insurance through HMK.
- HMK is especially vital for the youngest Montanans. **Half of all births in Montana are covered through HMK.** It also covers forty percent of infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

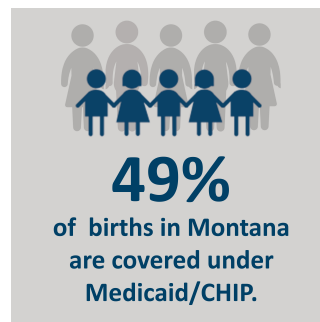
### Healthy Montana Kids is an Important Source of Coverage



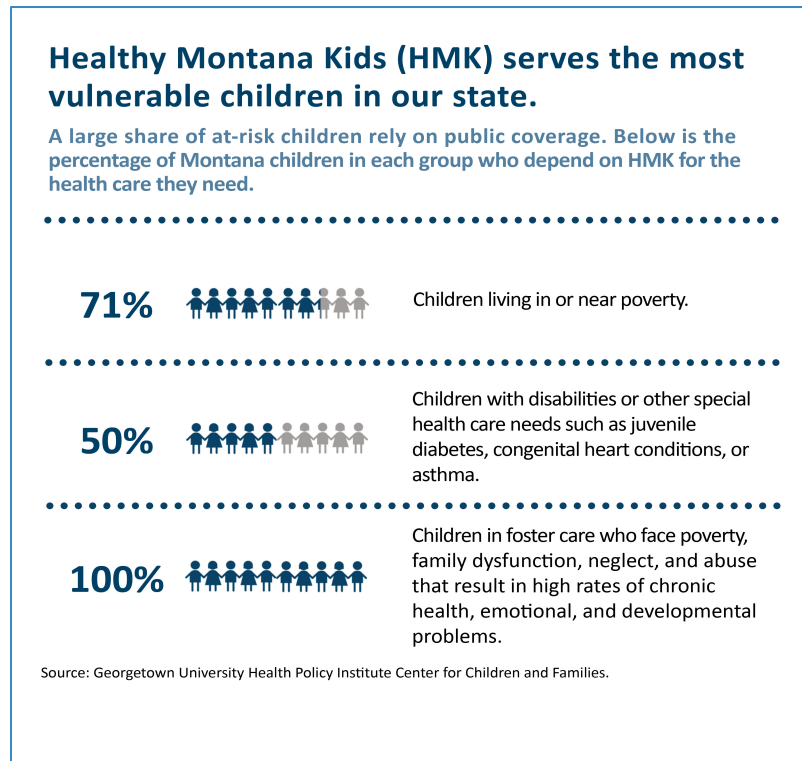
Source: Center for Children and Families, Georgetown University.

## CHIP gives Montana children strong starts

- Medicaid insurance coverage in childhood leads to **better health in adulthood** – including lower blood pressure, fewer hospitalizations, and even fewer deaths in adulthood – according to research.
- Children who receive Medicaid coverage are more likely to **graduate high school and attend college.**
- Medicaid insurance coverage **reduces bankruptcies**, thereby improving families' financial stability.
- Montana schools also benefit from Medicaid and CHIP. Montana schools receive **\$55 million in Medicaid funds – \$36 million of which is federal.** Schools use this funding to hire school health care staff as well as pay for health supplies that benefit all children.



- Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and CHIP, **92 percent** of Montana’s children now have health insurance coverage.



## Expiring CHIP coverage endangers Montana’s children

- With the expiration of CHIP funding, **healthcare coverage for 8.9 million children nationwide is in jeopardy.**
- Montana, along with 20 other states and D.C., will **exhaust federal CHIP funds in early 2018**, if funding is not extended.<sup>3</sup>
- Montana would be required to continue to provide the CHIP-funded Medicaid expansion, although it would no longer receive the higher federal match rate.
- Montana could **potentially hold new enrollment in the separate CHIP program, or end the program entirely**, endangering insurance coverage for tens of thousands of Montana families.

Montana cannot afford to provide coverage to CHIP families without continued federal funding, and Montana families cannot afford to lose their children’s health insurance. Our elected officials in Washington, DC must act immediately to continue this vital program.

<sup>1</sup> For more information on HMK, see our report “House and Senate GOP Bills Endanger Health Montana Kids Program.” Montana Budget and Policy Center. July 2017. <http://www.montanabudget.org/house-and-senate-gop-health-bills-endanger-healthy-montana-kids-program/>.

<sup>2</sup> Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. September 2017

<sup>3</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. “Current Status of State Planning for the Future of CHIP.” <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/fact-sheet/current-status-of-state-planning-for-the-future-of-chip/>