

## **VIRGINIA COALITION FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH 2007 Platform**

### **Expand access to prenatal care for low income women by increasing FAMIS Moms Eligibility to 200% FPL**

- Past increases have helped hundreds of pregnant women.
- However, current eligibility at 166% FPL is still lower than 37 other states.
- Our top priority is to support the Governor's Budget - \$2.6 GF \$4.8 NGF – to serve 900 more pregnant women
- Also support Governor's Budget proposal that increases rates for BabyCare program- services for high risk pregnant women to improve provider network, especially in rural areas \$0.5 GF/ \$0.5 NGF

### **Support 7% increase in reimbursement rates for pediatric services**

- Past increases in reimbursement rates for dental and pediatric services have improved participation by providers.
- However, major problems persist in access to pediatric services in certain areas. We support the Governor's Budget - \$5.2 GF / \$5.8 NGF for an additional 7% increase in reimbursement rates for pediatric services

### **Enhance medical workforce trained in children's behavioral health**

- While Medicaid/FAMIS include coverage for behavioral health services, there are not enough qualified providers to provide those services.
- The Coalition supports the Governor's Budget – DMHMRSAS -\$0.5 million for fellowships for child psychiatrists and internships for child psychologists who commit to work in underserved areas in Virginia.
- We will also support a Budget Amendment offered by the JCHC to fund children's behavioral health training to other providers.

### **Streamline procedures for Medicaid applications that require documentation of U.S. Citizenship and Identity**

- The federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requires most Medicaid applicants and recipients who are U.S. Citizens to provide documentation of their citizenship and identity.
- As implemented by the federal agency, this new rule has resulted in a net decrease in enrollment of about 12,000 Medicaid children in Virginia as well as enormous backlogs and delays in application processing.
- The Coalition will support a Budget Amendment (language only) to enhance electronic information sharing between the Departments of Social Services, Health and Motor Vehicles.

# **VIRGINIA COALITION FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH 2007**

American Academy of Pediatrics – Virginia Chapter  
Blue Ridge Care Connection for Children  
Bon Secours Health System - Virginia  
Central Virginia Health Planning Agency  
Child Development Resources, Inc.  
CHIP of Roanoke Valley  
CHIP of Virginia  
Children's National Medical Center  
INOVA Health System  
Law Center for Children – Legal Services of Northern Virginia  
Legislative Coalition of Virginia Nurses  
March of Dimes – Virginia Chapter  
Northern Virginia Access to Health Care Consortium  
Partnership for People with Disabilities  
Potomac Hospital  
Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads  
REACH  
SIDS Mid-Atlantic  
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy  
Virginia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Va-LEND)  
Virginia Nurses Association  
Virginia Poverty Law Center  
Virginia Primary Care Association  
Voices for Virginia's Children



## **VIRGINIA POVERTY LAW CENTER**

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### **2007 Health and Human Resources Priorities**

**Children's Health** – see, Platform of Virginia Coalition for Children's Health

#### **TANF**

- **DRA Work participation requirements** - Fund new employment support, child care, and other changes. Governor's Budget \$26.1 GF/ \$4.7 NGF
- **Preserve the Child Support Supplement** – current budget
- **TANF Groupings of Localities** – Provide funding to move the six localities that, according to the DSS Board, are currently in the wrong group - Caroline County, King George County, Spotsylvania County, Stafford County, Fauquier County, and Newport News. Also direct DSS to evaluate accuracy of current Groupings and consider options. Budget Amendment \$1.9 GF
- **Support TANF eligibility for people convicted of a drug-related felony but who are now complying with all court conditions and substance abuse treatment.** SB 835 and SB 934 (\$0.2 GF \$0.1 NGF)
- **Eliminate time limit for children when a caretaker relative (other than the parent) becomes their legal guardian.** SB 865 (\$0.5 GF)

#### **Foster Care**

- **Increase in payments to families for foster care and subsidized adoptions** - Governor's budget \$3.0 GF / \$2.0 NGF
- **Continued Medicaid coverage for former foster care youth between ages 18 and 21** - SB 995

## **Childcare**

- **Funding for subsidized child care programs for non-TANF families** – Many of these families are just one financial crisis away from TANF eligibility. Budget Amendment - \$17 million GF

## **Long term care**

- **Nursing Home Personal Needs Allowance** - Increase by \$10.  
Governor's Budget \$0.9 GF \$0.9 NGF
- **Assisted Living** - Increase the facility rate and personal care allowance.  
Governor's Budget - Funded in '08 with anticipated '07 surplus in program
- **Additional PACE program** - Governor's Budget \$0.25
- **Money Follows the Person demonstration grant** - Governor's Budget \$0.5 GF / \$6.7 NGF

## **Health Reform - Covering the Uninsured**

- **2006 JLARC Report** - 1 million uninsured Virginians
  - 60% with income under 200% FPL
  - 34% with income under 100% FPL
- **Provide health insurance for this low income population by using the Medicaid program to leverage federal financial participation.**
  - Low income parents – current Medicaid coverage is under 30% FPL – worse than 45 other states
  - “Qualified” Legal immigrants who have lived in the US for five years – Unlike 41 states, Virginia restricts coverage of this population
  - Former foster care children – SB 995
  - Medically needy who “spend-down” to eligibility – people with income only slightly above Medicaid eligibility must incur catastrophic health care costs before qualifying
  - Impoverished adults without children – many states have obtained federal waivers to serve this population

## **Tax Reform for Low Income Virginians**

**VPLC supports the Governor's budget proposal that raises the threshold for tax withholding and tax liability**