Healthy Preschoolers Project

Overview
The Mayor’s Office for Education and Children (MOEC) and Denver’s Great Kids Head Start (DGKHS) is undertaking an Outreach and Enrollment for Children and Youth grant from The Colorado Trust. This is a three year grant award in the amount of $225,300 to help reach and enroll uninsured children who are eligible for public health insurance programs and assist families in accessing health services in the City and County of Denver to better prepare preschoolers for kindergarten.

Project
The Healthy Preschoolers Project will integrate health insurance enrollment services into existing case management services provided by Denver's Great Kids Head Start and MOEC’s Childcare Initiative. When this project is complete, training in health insurance enrollment and utilization of insurance will be a regular part of Head Start and childcare parent trainings. This integration will ensure that the program will continue to provide results long after the grant period. Uninsured children enrolled in Denver’s Great Kids Head Start and MOEC’s childcare programs form the target population for this project. Each of these families will receive individualized case management services consisting of one-on-one application assistance prior to referral to a community based enrollment site.

- Head Start delegate staff and child care providers will receive specific training on immigration rules and regulations pertaining to eligibility requirements of public financed insurance programs.
- Head Start Family Services Workers (FSW) and MOEC’s Project Case Coordinator will assist families in compiling required documents to enroll children in Medicaid, CHP Plus, Community Health Service Rate (CHS) and the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP).
- MOEC will convene an advisory group that will work to address barriers to health insurance access at the local level.
- MOEC will work with community stakeholders to develop a streamlined and coordinated application process and make recommendations to policy makers and legislative organizations as necessary.

Outcomes
- 100% enrollment into public health insurance.
- 100% enrollment to a medical home.

Benefits
The primary benefit to children and their families will be to have health insurance and increased access to health care through enrollment in public health insurance programs. The secondary benefit is to children who are covered by health insurance because they are more likely to enter kindergarten healthy and ready to learn.

- Families will be provided accurate information and appropriate resources for health insurance enrollment in a culturally competent manner.
- Families will become informed consumers and take charge of their family health care.

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