



## NEWS RELEASE

### ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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#### **State streamlines enrollment process in healthcare coverage programs for families affected by hurricanes**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The state of Alabama has received a federal waiver granted by the Department of Health and Human Services which allows the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama Medicaid Agency to continue to streamline procedures for enrolling eligible hurricane evacuees into Medicaid and ALL Kids, Alabama's State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

The plan for hurricane evacuee enrollment includes a shortened, two-page application which can be used for children applying for both programs as well as for adults applying for temporary Medicaid coverage. The two-page, joint application is available at local Medicaid offices, county health departments, and online at [www.adph.org/allkids](http://www.adph.org/allkids) or [www.medicaid.state.al.us](http://www.medicaid.state.al.us). Families can also have an application sent to them by calling either of the programs toll-free:

**ALL Kids-1-877-373-5437 and Medicaid-1-800-362-1504.**

A copy of identification (some type of paper with previous address) to verify former residence is required. All other information will be taken by self-declaration. Assets tests have also been waived. Enrollment in these programs will provide up to five months of healthcare coverage with no out-of-pocket expense by the family. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2006.

#### **\* Uninsured evacuees who may be eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP:**

Hurricane evacuees from other states who are in Alabama, who may now be eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP, should apply for Alabama Medicaid or the ALL Kids program. The simplified enrollment plan also applies to residents of the following Alabama counties FEMA has designated as Individual Assistance counties: Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Greene, Hale, Mobile, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa and Washington.

## S Current Mississippi or Louisiana Medicaid and SCHIP enrollees:

Hurricane evacuees with Louisiana or Mississippi Medicaid or SCHIP coverage are now eligible to apply for temporary Medicaid or SCHIP coverage in Alabama without losing eligibility in their home states. This means that Alabama providers will be able to verify Alabama eligibility and file claims for this group of evacuees with Alabama Medicaid and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama.

### \* Alabama providers:

To verify eligibility, providers should ask patients if they have a temporary Alabama evacuee Medicaid or ALL Kids letter/card. The Medicaid temporary card is a screen print on a sheet of paper. The ALL Kids letter/card is a faxed letter with a "wallet card" on the bottom left. Evacuees will not receive a plastic Medicaid or ALL Kids card.

The public is reminded that the most current Alabama information and links to resources of other states is available online at [www.medicaid.state.al.us](http://www.medicaid.state.al.us), click on HURRICANE-RELATED INFORMATION. The Alabama Medicaid Agency may also be reached toll-free by calling Medicaid at **1-800-362-1504**.

Additional resources for families are available online at [www.adph.org/allkids](http://www.adph.org/allkids), click on HURRICANE RELATED INFORMATION. The ALL Kids program can be reached at **1-888-373-KIDS (5437)** between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. People may also leave a message or e-mail ALL Kids at [www.adph.org/allkids](http://www.adph.org/allkids).

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