Apple Health for Kids Brings Vital Federal Dollars into the State through CHIPRA Performance Bonuses

Washington State has received $25 Million in the last two years from federal performance bonuses allocated through the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) for our achievements in enrollment of children in Apple Health for Kids. Congress has appropriated funds for these bonuses through 2013. Bonuses are awarded annually in December and are based on caseload: the larger the caseload, the higher the award.

If Washington continues to meet targets to increase efficiency and enrollment growth trends and projections, the state is in line to receive*:

2011 - $25.9 million to $38.9 million
2012 - $41 million to $55.3 million

For the 2011-2013 biennium, Washington State is poised to earn $66.9 million to $94.2 million unrestricted federal dollars from two annual CHIPRA performance bonuses by maintaining efforts that continue to enroll and sustain coverage for all eligible children into Apple Health for Kids.

Policymakers have the opportunity to sustain our gains in Apple Health for Kids by preserving coverage for all children currently eligible for coverage in the 2011-13 biennial budget. Streamlining and modernizing our current efforts in retention and enrollment of eligible children will allow Washington to maximize our bonus awards for the next three years.

Governor Gregoire’s 2011-13 proposed budget included only $15.8 million of the $80 million* the state expects to receive in the form of CHIPRA federal bonuses. That is an additional $64.2 million of flexible federal dollars for the State and an opportunity for reinvestment into Apple Health for Kids.

*These numbers reflect a 3% total caseload variance – 1.5% below and 1.5% above the point estimate of monthly caseload enrollment for each year. Midpoint caseload average estimates: 2011 - $32.4, 2012 - $47.6.

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Updated March 14, 2011