



## Children's Health Insurance Program

### **CHIP in Connecticut**

CHIP (i.e., HUSKY B in Connecticut) provides health coverage to children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid. Generally, families receiving HUSKY B services must contribute toward the cost of care, with contributions rising as family income rises.

In Connecticut, CHIP (or HUSKY B) covers over 17,300 children – 11,133 in Band 1 and 6,198 in Band 2. Band 2 generally requires more cost sharing and has a higher income limit (see next page for more on eligibility).

Connecticut receives an 88% federal match for HUSKY B children, which, according to DSS, is over \$37 million in federal funds.

### **Program Structure**

Like Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (1) provides health coverage to eligible recipients, (2) is funded jointly by states and the federal government, and (3) is administered at the federal level by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and at the state level by the Department of Social Services (DSS). Unlike Medicaid, CHIP is a capped program (i.e., a block grant), and as such, CMS annually determines the share of program funding the federal government will pay each year. States must provide matching funds to receive their federal funding.

### **Program Status**

Congress passed legislation creating CHIP in 1997. Since then, various federal laws have extended the program and made other changes. Most recently, P.L. 114-10 in 2015 extended funding through FFY 17. Thus, by law, federal funding for CHIP expired September 30, 2017.

According to DSS, without additional federal funding, the state cannot continue the CHIP program past mid-December 2017 and will exhaust CHIP funding in February 2018.

# Who is Eligible for CHIP in Connecticut?

## Band 1

Band 1 covers children from families with incomes between 201% and 254% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) (\$41,044.20 to \$51,866.80 per year for a family of three).

## Band 2

Band 2 covers children from families with incomes between 254% and 323% FPL (\$51,866.80 to \$65,956.60 per year for a family of three).

## Cost Sharing

HUSKY B families must contribute toward the cost of care. Families in Band 2 pay a premium of \$30 per month for one child, \$50 per month for two or more children. Families in both bands pay up to 5% of their gross income.

For a family of three in 2017, 100% FPL is \$20,420 per year. There is no asset limit for HUSKY B.

## Coverage and Providers

In Connecticut, DSS administers CHIP and Medicaid as HUSKY Health, with CHIP coverage under HUSKY B and various Medicaid coverage groups under HUSKY A, HUSKY C, and HUSKY D. HUSKY B provides coverage for various services, including physician and radiology services, mental health services, emergency care, clinic and hospital services, laboratory work, and pharmacy services.

Health care providers who wish to be reimbursed for services they provide to HUSKY B recipients must enroll as providers in the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP). The same requirement applies to providers who wish to receive reimbursement for services to Medicaid recipients. Providers are reimbursed at the same rates for services they provide to Medicaid and HUSKY B recipients.

CHIP funds are also used for HUSKY Plus, a supplemental health program for children enrolled in HUSKY B who have intensive physical health needs. Among other things, HUSKY Plus covers rehabilitation services (e.g., physical and occupational therapy) and medical equipment (e.g., electric wheelchairs). There are no co-pays for HUSKY Plus services.

## The “SCHIP Fix”

While CHIP primarily provides health care coverage for children from families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid, it also supplements funding for all children on Medicaid with incomes above 138% FPL. In Connecticut, these children generally receive Medicaid under HUSKY A.

This CHIP-funded support for Medicaid recipients is sometimes called the “SCHIP fix” (for State Children’s Health Insurance Program).

According to DSS, federal CHIP funds for such Medicaid covered children in Connecticut are between \$35 and \$40 million annually.

**Learn  
More**

[Congressional Research Service “Federal Financing for the State Children’s Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)”](#)

[OLR Report 2016-R-0089, “HUSKY B and HUSKY Plus”](#)

