

SignUpNow

Outreach

Communities Connecting Kids With Health Coverage



is Here!

by Linda Nablo
Project Director,
SignUpNow

Family Access to Medical Insurance Security or **FAMIS** (pronounced like the word “famous”) replaces the current CMSIP program on **August 1, 2001**.

Families can apply over the telephone by calling the FAMIS Central Processing Unit (CPU) toll free at:

1-866-87 FAMIS
(1-866-873-2647)

Families may also mail or fax an application and the required verifications to the FAMIS CPU. The toll free **fax number is:**

1-888-221-9402

The application can be mailed to:

FAMIS
PO Box 1820
Richmond, VA 23218-1820

FAMIS has a useful web site for community outreach workers — **www.FAMIS.org**

The web site is available in English and Spanish and provides:

- *information about FAMIS*
- *a downloadable application form*
- *contact information for how to order brochures, flyers, and posters*
- *a calculator to help determine if a family's income is within the FAMIS eligibility limits*
- *in the future, information on area health care providers*

New SignUpNow Community Workshops in the Fall

Thanks to our many funders and to a special contract with the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services, SignUpNow was able to offer 15 FAMIS & Medicaid Workshops around Virginia in July and August. Many of the sessions filled up quickly and we had to turn some people away. **Due to the overwhelming response, we are scheduling more training opportunities for the Fall.** Additional dates will be added as we finalize the arrangements. Please register early if you want to attend one of the following Workshops.

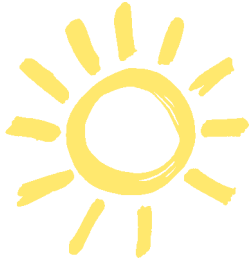
Upcoming FAMIS Workshops

8/31	Fairfax — Inova Health System
9/20	Sterling — Eastern Loudoun Regional Library
10/2	Warsaw — St. John's Episcopal Church
10/5	Fairfax — Inova Fair Oaks Hospital
10/10	Williamsburg — Williamsburg Community Hospital
10/16	Richmond — Children's Hospital
10/18	Harrisonburg — James Madison University
TBA	Hampton Roads

If you are interested in attending one of the Workshops listed above, e-mail signupnow@vhha.com or call 1-804-965-1352.



Planning For The New Robert Wood Johnson Initiative



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is expanding their *Covering Kids* Initiative by offering a second round of funding, *Covering Kids and Families*, to the states. Virginia can apply for this new four-year outreach funding opportunity in February 2002. Many programs and organizations have expressed an interest in this opportunity but RWJ will only accept one proposal from each state. The proposal must be supported by a broad based coalition and must include both a statewide effort to enroll and retain children in Medicaid and FAMIS and at least two local outreach efforts. In order to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to provide input into a Virginia proposal, SignUpNow is hosting an initial planning meeting. This meeting is open to all interested agencies, programs and organizations. The purpose of the

meeting will be to discuss a preliminary plan for submission of a successful Virginia proposal by February. You can learn more about the RWJ funding opportunity by visiting their web site at www.coveringkids.org/ckf/.

The meeting will be held at the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** headquarters in the **Board Room** at 4200 Innslake Drive in Glen Allen, Virginia (west end of Richmond) on **September 24th from 10AM-12PM**.

Please call SignUpNow at 1-804-965-1352 to let us know if you would like to attend. Because of space limitations, we request that only one or two representatives from each organization attend.

Funding to Help Children Without Health Insurance: A Grant Opportunity

By Melissa King
*Project Connect Coordinator,
Virginia Health Care
Foundation*

Good news! There is a **new grant opportunity for community organizations** interested in helping to enroll eligible children in state-sponsored health insurance programs. The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) has recently awarded the Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF) \$500,000 to invest in this effort. VHCF began awarding grants for this purpose in 1999 through an initiative called **Project Connect**. This project has been successful, enrolling more than 5,000 children in CMSIP and Medicaid during the past 18 months.

This new funding will be used to continue some of the original 12 *Project Connect* projects, and the remainder will be awarded to other qualified organizations interested in conducting community outreach and assisting eligible children to apply for FAMIS and Medicaid. The most successful of the original projects partnered with schools, churches, and social services organizations to determine the insurance needs of individual children in their communities. In addition, they worked one on one with interested families to apply for these benefits, they tracked the status of the application, and they provided troubleshooting assistance until the child's eligibility was fairly determined by the local Department of Social Service.



If you are interested in applying for funds to conduct children's health insurance outreach and enrollment assistance in your community, please consider applying for a new *Project Connect* grant. The information on this special call for proposals can be found on the VHCF web site, www.vhcf.org select the *Project Connect* link on the Programs & Initiatives page. **The due date for the submittal of concept papers is August 20, 2001.** If you have any questions or comments regarding this initiative please e-mail melissa@vhcf.org or call 1-804-828-5804.

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A Project Of The Virginia Coalition For Children's Health

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