

Governor's Proposed Executive Budget 2004 – 2005
(Details of the budget can be found on the Division of Budget web site at www.budget.state.ny.us)

Impact of Budget Proposal on Public Health Insurance Programs:

- **Proposed cuts to facilitated enrollment:**
 - Reduce funding for facilitated enrollment for children and eliminate facilitated enrollment for adults. This proposal targets facilitated enrollment conducted by community-based service providers and health plans.
- **Proposed program/rules changes to Child Health Plus A and Family Health Plus**
 - *Child Health Plus* – Budget recommends transferring children 6-19 years of age with incomes between 100-133 percent of the FPL from Child Health Plus A (Medicaid) to Child Health Plus B. This proposal will impact an estimated 77,000 children.
 - *Family Health Plus* – Budget recommends imposing the Medicaid asset/resource test, requiring a 12 month waiting period for those who had group health coverage previously, prohibit coverage for individuals employed by a large business (with 50 or more employees) or government entity, requiring co-payments, and eliminating dental and vision services.
 - There are also changes recommended for the adult Medicaid program.

Opportunities to Educate Officials about Facilitated Enrollment:

We are working with members of the Child Health Now! Coalition and other key advocates to implement a three-pronged strategy to educate the Governor and Assembly and Senate leadership about the importance of facilitated enrollment and the implications of the Governor's proposed budget on public health insurance.

The plan includes:

- **Legislative Hearings** – Key organizations will testify or submit testimony at appropriate legislative hearings. For example, a panel of facilitated enrollment agencies presented at the Senate Finance & Assembly Ways and Means Hearing held on Tuesday February 3, 2004. CDF-NY submitted written testimony.
- **Letter Writing** –
 - *Joint Letter to Governor, Senate and Assembly Leadership* - A letter to the Governor, Senator Bruno, Assembly Speaker Silver and others has been drafted and circulated to lead agencies statewide asking that their Executive Directors and sub-contractors sign-on to the letter.
 - *Agency Letters* - A model letter will also be drafted so that lead agencies and subcontracting organizations can send their own individual letters to the Governor, Senate and Assembly leadership as well as the Assembly person and Senator that represents their agency's district. Educating local Assembly and Senate representatives is an extremely important component of this strategy.
 - *Consumer Post Card Campaign* – We have created sheets of post cards (addressed to the Governor, Senator Bruno and Assembly Speaker Silver) that clients/consumers can sign-on to. The post cards talk about the impact of the budget cuts and the importance of facilitated enrollment.
- **Legislative Visits** – We are suggesting that coalition members and supporters set up legislative visits to educate the Senate and Assembly about the importance of facilitated enrollment program and the impact of the other cuts on public health insurance. CDF-NY has developed talking points that can be used at the visits. If you can not schedule a visit please make a phone call to your local state representatives.