



June 23, 2015

## **LaHIPP to be Eliminated July 1<sup>st</sup>**

Approximately 1,500 Louisiana households received notice last week from the state Medicaid office that the Louisiana Health Insurance Premium Payment Program, commonly known as LaHIPP, was being eliminated effective July 1, 2015. **Individuals currently in this program will still be enrolled in Medicaid and have access to health coverage through Medicaid providers.** Children under the age of 21 are eligible to receive all services that are deemed “medically necessary.”

State officials reported that the program is being eliminated due to reductions in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Jindal last week and due to the fact that the overall program was no longer cost effective. LaHIPP paid all or a portion of health insurance premiums for an employee and their family if they had insurance available through their jobs, someone in the family had Medicaid, and it was cost effective for the state to do so. Insurance co-pays and deductibles were also covered. With the elimination of the program, insurance premiums, co-pays and deductibles will no longer be paid by the state.

The letter to current LaHIPP participants includes information regarding options for changing insurance coverage if that is desired by the participant. Participants were instructed to call 888-342-6207 for answers to any questions they may have.