

State Health Care Programs May Cut Back On Benefits Without Federal Bailout

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<?xml version="1.0"?> State Health Care Programs May Cut Back on Benefits without Federal Bailout, InsuranceBureau.com Reports

News Editors/Insurance Writers

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--December 12, 2008--InsuranceBureau.com, an independent consumer resource for insurance information, reports that state health care programs like the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and Medicaid may experience severe cutbacks.

This is troubling news for many who are already struggling because of economic trouble. Many states have recently raised income requirements for enrollment to cover more people. For example, enrollment in SCHIP in California has now expanded to 300 percent above the poverty level, at just over \$50,000 dollars in household income. "As people are losing their jobs in a difficult economy, more are enrolling in state sponsored healthcare programs," explains InsuranceBureau.com CEO Eric Oster. Between unemployment and raising the income requirement level to include more households, the state healthcare benefit plan will need either Federal assistance to maintain its current levels of benefits or significantly trim health insurance coverage benefits.

If the states reduce income requirements or cut benefits drastically, consumers may need to find other options for health insurance coverage. InsuranceBureau.com has assisted millions of people in locating affordable health insurance coverage and offers ideas on how to save money on health insurance costs.

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