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Ohio Recognized for Providing Health Coverage for Children, Earns Millions in Federal Bonus Funds

COLUMBUS – State Medicaid Director John McCarthy today announced that Ohio has received a third round of performance bonus grants from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for enrolling and retaining eligible children in Medicaid. Ohio was awarded \$17.9 million in Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) grants this year after receiving a total of \$33.9 million in 2010 and 2011.

“A critical aspect of modernizing Medicaid is finding new ways to bolster enrollment of eligible children,” McCarthy said. “This award shows that we are doing a good job of covering children in Medicaid. At the same time, we have been able to use previous awards to launch innovative programs that will improve health care for children and adults, allowing more Ohioans to lead healthy lives.”

Since 2011, Ohio has invested \$15.5 million in CHIPRA grant funds in various initiatives that will advance Ohio’s health system modernization strategies and improve care for all Ohioans. Funded projects include efforts to expand presumptive eligibility for pregnant women and children, improve the early identification of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), and provide better access to patient-centered medical homes (PCMHs), among others.

(For a complete list of all the initiatives made possible through previous CHIPRA grants, see: http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=H_pcojHFFoY%3d&tabid=136)

To get the CHIPRA bonus, a state’s enrollment for children in Medicaid must exceed a baseline target and it must have implemented at least five of eight policies, such as Medicaid presumptive eligibility, that are known to boost enrollment of children.

“Congratulations to Director McCarthy and Ohio Medicaid for being recognized again for their efforts to provide health coverage for Ohio’s children,” said Greg Moody, director of the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation. “This latest grant reaffirms that we have made real progress in the past two years toward modernizing Ohio’s health systems and improving health care for vulnerable Ohioans.”

A division of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Ohio Medicaid administers the state's Medicaid program and provides health coverage to 2.2 million Ohioans with low incomes through a network of 75,000 health-care providers. Greg Moody, director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, recently announced plans to transform Ohio Medicaid from a division of ODJFS into a cabinet-level state agency.