

HealingKids

An E-newsletter for members of the Pediatrics Interest Group



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COVERING KIDS & FAMILIES

[HCH Clinicians' Network Joins Campaign to Connect Uninsured Kids with Low-Cost and Free Health Care Coverage](#)

Today, 8.4 million children in the United States are uninsured. Hispanic and African-American children are more likely to be without health care coverage. One in five Hispanic children and one in seven African-American children are uninsured. Many uninsured children are eligible for low-cost or free health care coverage, but their parents may not think their children qualify because they work.

That's why the Network is participating in the sixth annual *Covering Kids & Families Back-to-School Campaign*, which is designed to connect eligible, uninsured children with low-cost and free health care coverage available through Medicaid and the *State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)*. The campaign works with grantees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to conduct outreach and enrollment events targeted toward eligible families, and promotes the national toll-free number, 1 877 KIDS-NOW. Parents can call to find out if their children are eligible.

Last year, there were more than 2,100 events across the country. Many organizers and volunteers who participated were members of the 180 national partner organizations that supported the campaign. "Our national partner organizations and their vast network of members and volunteers have been crucial to the success of this campaign," said Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, MBA, president and CEO of *The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*. "By spreading the word that low-cost and free health care coverage is available for working families, our national partners are helping inform parents and caregivers of the programs that are available to their children."

The 2005 *Covering Kids & Families* Back-to-School Campaign will feature thousands of outreach and enrollment activities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The campaign will begin with a launch event in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, August 2. More concentrated efforts will take place in six major U.S. cities with high numbers of uninsured children: [Chicago](#), [Houston](#), [Los Angeles](#), [Miami](#), [New York](#) and [Philadelphia](#). Volunteers can participate in a variety of ways, from getting involved in activities in their area to planning their own events. Visit www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org/communications to learn more about the 2005 Back-to-School Campaign and download and order *free* materials. For more information on the 2005 *Covering Kids & Families* Back-to-School Campaign, contact the *Covering Kids & Families* Communications Team at 202 388-7227 or coveringkidsandfamilies@gmmb.com.

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SUBSIDIZED HOUSING & HEALTHY KIDS

by Mickey Hubbard, NCH Intern from Davidson College, NC

The study, "[Subsidized Housing and Children's Nutritional Status](#)," published in *The Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* by the [Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program \(C-SNAP\)](#) provides vital proof of the positive affect subsidized housing can have on families, especially children. C-SNAP is made up of a group of well-known pediatric doctors and researchers from seven urban medical centers across the nation who study the impact of public policies on health and nutrition of thousands of low-income children.

This study, conducted over a five-year period at six C-SNAP medical centers, provides a clear link between subsidized housing and healthy children. The study of nearly 12,000 low-income renter households shows that children of households that do not receive housing subsidies have a lower weight-for-age than those of households that do receive housing subsidies, despite both groups experiencing food insecurity.

Children in food insecure homes who did not receive housing assistance were twice as likely to be critically underweight, according to national growth standards. Overall, children of subsidized households experience greater growth than children of un-subsidized households within the inner city populations observed by this study.

These results affirm that a positive relationship *does* exist between better nutrition and subsidized housing. Furthermore, the fact that this relationship is independent of participation in other programs, such as Food Stamps or TANF, strengthens the correlation between housing subsidies and good nutrition. The results of this study coincide with studies done by other organizations such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which show that housing subsidies help to relieve financial strain, allowing families to better feed their children a proper diet and prevent growth deficiencies. This study can be used as a tool to prove the benefits of supporting subsidized housing. In a time when legislators are calling for firm scientific data to support "antidotal evidence" this research clearly supports the need for more affordable housing and an increase in funding for programs like Section 8 vouchers.

"Our results suggest that, in a time of increasing economic hardship and food insecurity for American families, further restricting access to housing subsidies will compromise the nutritional status and well-being of more low-income children," said lead author Alan Meyers, MD, a pediatrician at Boston Medical Center and an associate professor of pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine. The full report can be viewed at <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/159/6/551>. For

more information on child nutrition and the safety net visit www.c-snap.org.
SOURCE: NCH NEWS | June 29, 2005 | National Coalition for the Homeless

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NEW RESOURCE AVAILABLE ON ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

A new resource is available on the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](http://www.endhomelessness.org) website. The latest [Best Practice](#) features Larkin Street Youth Services (LSYS), a program that is preventing and ending youth homelessness. LSYS responds to the unique needs of homeless and runaway youth by providing a comprehensive continuum of services to encourage permanent exodus from the streets. LSYS annually serves more than 3,000 youth and young adults ages 12 - 23.

Founded in 1984, LSYS started as a neighborhood effort to protect homeless and runaway youth from prostitution, drug dealing and theft in the Tenderloin/Polk Gulch area of San Francisco, CA. Currently, LSYS operates 17 programs out of eight locations in San Francisco. The programs are designed to address immediate needs as well as create long-term opportunities for stable housing and include four distinct types of services for homeless and runaway youth: point of entry, housing, HIV specialty, and educational and employment services.

In addition to being profiled on the Alliance website, Larkin Street Youth Services will also be featured at the 2005 NAEH Annual Conference. Conference attendees will be able to hear from and speak with LSYS' Chief of Programs Sherilyn Adams during the workshop entitled, [Permanent Housing for Youth: Yes, It Can Be Done!](#), and at the [Managing Multi-faceted Youth Service Programs Expert Roundtable](#). For more information, please see <http://www.endhomelessness.org/best/LarkinSt.html>
SOURCE: National Alliance to End Homelessness | Online Newsletter | June 27, 2005

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U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS ADOPTS RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOMELESS FAMILIES, CHILDREN

At its recent annual conference in Chicago, the [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) adopted a resolution, introduced by Anchorage Mayor Marc Begish, streamlining the federal definition of homelessness. The resolution was cosponsored by the Mayors of Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Fayetteville, Arkansas; St. Paul, Minnesota; Trenton, New Jersey; Richmond, California; Quincy, Massachusetts; Reno, Nevada; and San Antonio, Texas. The resolution recognizes the extent and severity of family homelessness and the problems caused by the varying definitions of "homelessness" used by different federal agencies. The resolution also specifically cites the definition used by the U.S. Department of Education. Finally, the resolution calls on the federal government to adopt a [single, unified definition of homelessness](#). Philip Mangano, the head of the [U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness](#), will be required to report to the Conference of Mayors next year on the progress made toward this goal.

The resolution should be an important step toward unifying the federal definition of homelessness and ensuring that families and children experiencing homelessness will be able to access housing and other services provided by HUD and other federal agencies. The [National Policy & Advocacy Council on Homelessness](#) and its national partners will release a background paper on homeless definitions and the urgency of amending the HUD definition in the coming weeks.

http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/resolutions/73rd_conference/Res2005023.htm

<<http://en.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=34425885&u=313405>>

SOURCE: The NPACH Report | Vol. 2, No. 6 | National Policy & Advocacy Council on Homelessness

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NUTRITION RESOURCES

Developed by the [National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute](#) and promoted in collaboration with several other NIH institutes, national health and youth organizations, and community-based groups, [We Can! \(Ways to Enhance Children's Activity & Nutrition!\)](#) provides resources to encourage healthy eating, increase physical activity, and reduce sedentary time. The program offers a parents' handbook in Spanish and English as well as a new six-lesson curriculum for parents and tested curricula for children through community-based sites. A new online resource provides parents, caregivers, communities, national partners, and media up-to-date health information and tips on maintaining a healthy weight for families. For more information, visit <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/wecan> or call toll-free 866 359-3226.

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COURT RULES THAT FAIR HOUSING ACT PROTECTS VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In April, a federal court ruled for the first time that the Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination against victims of domestic violence. In *Bouley v. Young-Sabourin*, the court ruled that because victims of domestic violence are most often women, discriminating against domestic violence victims violates the sex discrimination provisions of the Fair Housing Act. In the case, the plaintiff had called the police after being assaulted by her husband. Her husband was arrested and shortly thereafter, she received a letter of eviction from her landlord, which she contested. Domestic violence is often cited as a cause of homelessness for individuals and families; in a national survey of homeless clients, domestic violence was the second most frequently stated cause of homelessness for families. *Bouley v. Young-Sabourin* sets an important legal precedent that can help prevent homelessness among victims of domestic violence. For more information see <http://www.aclu.org/WomensRights/WomensRights.cfm?ID=18042&c=173i> <<http://www.aclu.org/WomensRights/WomensRights.cfm?ID=18042&c=173%C3%AE>>
SOURCE: National Alliance to End Homelessness | Online Newsletter | May 3, 2005

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NATIONAL CENTER ON FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

The [National Center on Family Homelessness](#) is an important collaborator in the work of the HCH Clinicians' Network. Please visit their website for important information about their policy initiatives and services at <http://www.familyhomelessness.org> <<http://www.familyhomelessness.org>>

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REACH OUT AND READ

[Reach out and Read](#) (ROR) is a national pediatric early literacy program that trains clinicians to routinely promote to parents the importance of books and reading aloud to their children, with a special focus on children growing up in poverty. Research has shown that ROR improves children's home literacy environments and developmental outcomes. ROR has helped parents have more positive attitudes towards books and reading, parents read aloud more often to their children, and children show significant improvement in expressive and receptive language.

The [Association of Clinicians for the Underserved](#) is helping ROR in their efforts to reach more clinics across the country and promote the importance of early literacy in children. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact Jen Sheen at 703 448-8528 or e-mail jsheen@clinicians.org. If you would like to learn more about the program through ROR's website,

please visit www.reachoutandread.org <<http://www.reachoutandread.org>> .
Jen Sheen | Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
phone: 703 448-8528 | e-mail: jsheen@clinicians.org.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Do Something Invites Applications for Fall 2005 Grants to Support Youth-Led Community Projects
Deadline: September 2, 2005

Do Something (<http://www.dosomething.org>) awards \$500 grants to change-makers and potential community leaders age 18 and under who identify problems in their communities and then create game plans to do something to change their world. Grants are awarded in three areas: community building, health, and the environment. Young people can apply on their own, or on behalf of a group or team. The Do Something Youth Advisory Council reviews grant proposals twice a year and awards ten grants every fall and ten grants every spring. Applicants must be 18 years old or younger on October 21, 2005, to receive a fall 2005 Do Something grant. Visit the Do Something website for complete application information and examples of funded projects.

RFP Link: <http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/3179/dosomething>. For additional RFPs in Children and Youth, visit http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_children.jhtml

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UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Update on Immunizations: Back to School Webcast
Monday, August 29, 2005 | 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM ET

You are invited to participate in the Clinical Directors Network's webcast on immunization.

Registration is limited. Register in advance by going to

<http://www.horizonwimba.com/eventreg/participant/registration.php?eventid=673>. Presented by: Amy Metroka, MSW, and Sheila Palevsky, MD, MPH | Sponsors: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Primary Care Information Project Task Force, and the Clinical Directors Network

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NPACH To Co-sponsor NAEHCY National Conference
October 22 - 25, 2005

The National Policy & Advocacy Council on Homelessness announces that it is co-sponsoring the 17th Annual Conference of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth (NAEHCY), to be held October 22 - 25, 2005, in New Orleans, LA. The goal of this collaboration is to bring housing providers, shelter providers and educators together to address the needs of families and youth experiencing homelessness. Lack of housing impedes academic achievement, underscoring the need for educators to become involved in efforts to increase affordable housing. At the same time, schools are a critical, but too often overlooked, part of the safety net for homeless families; school district homeless liaisons have developed great expertise in coordinating services for homeless families, especially those who are forced to live in homeless situations that do not fit HUD's narrow definition of homelessness. NPACH will work with NAEHCY to develop workshops that can help foster greater mutual understanding and cross-collaboration between the housing and education communities.

SOURCE: The NPACH Report | vol 2. no. | National Policy & Advocacy Council on Homelessness | www.naehcy.org

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Special Issue of American Behavioral Scientist On Homeless Children And Youth
Submission deadline: January 15, 2006

American Behavioral Scientist (ABS) invites submissions for a special issue on homelessness among children and youth to be published in the summer or fall of 2006. Appropriate papers will contribute a social or behavioral science perspective, may be from any country, and should have implications for policies or actions that address problems of homelessness among young people. ABS has provided interdisciplinary, in-depth coverage of critical issues for more than 45 years. Send queries, abstracts and papers to the special issue editors: Darcy.Varney@colorado.edu <<mailto:Darcy.Varney@colorado.edu>> and Willem.vanVliet@colorado.edu .

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This Pediatrics Interest Group e-mail update is brought to you by the Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network. We invite you to share your opinion on issues of concern to the pediatrics community. Plus, we welcome your feedback. If you have comments or suggestions for improvements to the newsletter, please send them to the Pediatrics Interest Group newsletter editor, Brenda Proffitt, at bproffitt@nhchc.org.

If you decide to cancel your subscription, please send a blank e-mail to network@nhchc.org, and put Leave Pediatric Interest Group in the Subject line of your message.

Virtually yours,
Brenda Proffitt