

Suspension of State Only Children's Rehabilitative Services Program

The Arizona Department of Health Services cut more than \$60 million from its budget, and is facing more cuts. Because of these budget cuts, state funding has been suspended for all services for Children's Rehabilitative Services (CRS) recipients who are **not** enrolled in Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). Families of CRS recipients who are not enrolled in AHCCCS will be receiving letters from our contractor, APIPA-CRS, informing them that they will be dis-enrolled from CRS, effective December 1, 2009.

CRS recipients who are enrolled in AHCCCS are not affected by this change. However, members who are enrolled in AHCCCS will be dis-enrolled from CRS if they become dis-enrolled from AHCCCS. Applications from non-AHCCCS members for CRS will be denied. CRS recipients who lose their AHCCCS coverage, but later re-enroll in AHCCCS, will be permitted to re-enroll in CRS.

Before March of 2009, CRS covered the cost of medical services for children that did not qualify for AHCCCS below certain income limits. In March of 2009, due to budget cuts, all state assistance with medical expenses, regardless of income, was discontinued for non-AHCCCS CRS recipients. These recipients remained enrolled in CRS, which provided access to the CRS provider network, but were expected to pay for their medical services, at fees no higher than AHCCCS provider scheduled rates. **As of December 1, 2009, children will no longer be able to enroll in the CRS Program unless they are also enrolled in AHCCCS.** This change will affect approximately 3,950 CRS recipients who are not currently enrolled in AHCCCS.

CRS provides medical, rehabilitative, and support services for children with certain chronic and disabling conditions, such as Cerebral Palsy, Cystic Fibrosis, Neurofibromatosis, Sickle Cell Anemia, Metabolic Disorders, Spina Bifida, Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate, and Congenital Heart Anomalies. CRS recipients receive care for their CRS-eligible conditions through CRS. General primary care services not related to a recipient's CRS-eligible condition are provided through the member's AHCCCS Health Plan.

For further information, please contact the Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs by email at OCSHCN@azdhs.gov, or call 602-542-1860 or 800-232-1676.