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**INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILDRENS HEALTH AND
DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE**

**Application Grant Program
Funding Guidelines 2016**

Goal: To increase access to children's health and dental insurance coverage

The HNH Foundation has a long history of supporting the state-based Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Health insurance coverage for New Hampshire's children provides a foundation to a positive start for a productive and healthy life. Without coverage, children are less likely to receive preventive and needed care and delay care, making future treatment more extensive and expensive.¹ Delay in care when needed may prevent kids from participating fully in classroom learning.²

With passage of the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans, low-income including children and families, have improved access to more affordable health and dental insurance coverage. However, with the changing landscape of state and federal legislation related to coverage, this population still face uncertainty. The HNH Foundation funding strategies and objectives seek to establish policies and systems that result in increased access to children's health and dental insurance coverage. Specifically this includes: eliminating all barriers to apply for, enroll in and retain coverage; supporting advocacy and education regarding the importance of coverage for NH's children and best practices to achieve this coverage; maintaining benefits for children that at a minimum, are aligned with the current NH CHIP coverage; and collecting, analyzing and reporting data that track application, enrollment and retention numbers. We are committed to achieving long-term, sustainable change by funding proposals most likely to succeed in systemic change beyond the grant period.

About Current Funding Strategies

Due to recent and several changes to the health care coverage landscape both nationally and in New Hampshire, the HNH Foundation has been responding to needs as they emerge. This includes convening stakeholders to develop an outreach and enrollment plan for the NH Health Insurance Marketplace, collecting, analyzing and disseminating data to inform outreach and enrollment activities, and, as a result of Medicaid Expansion and upcoming Marketplace open enrollment, updating tools and resources in response to current and anticipated needs. The Foundation is also monitoring existing CHIP legislation and funding to assure that the program is retained for eligible children.

For now, the HNH Foundation is encouraging organizations and agencies to contact Patti Baum, Program Officer, to discuss your ideas before submitting a Letter of Inquiry.

¹ Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, The Uninsured: Key Facts About Americans Without Health Insurance, October 2011

² Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Children's Health, Why Health Insurance Matters, May 2002