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**FEDERAL GRANT BOOSTS LOCAL EFFORTS TO CONNECT KIDS TO COVERAGE
HHS Announces Award of \$877,750; Alameda County to Partner with School Districts**

Oakland, CA (July 2, 2013) – Alameda County’s Connecting Kids to Coverage Initiative, which seeks to enroll eligible children in health care coverage, has received a major boost from the federal government. At a press conference held today by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Alameda County was selected as one of 41 state agencies in 22 states to receive a grant. Alameda County was awarded \$877,750. Nearly 32 million in [grant awards](#) were announced.

The County will utilize the grant to work in partnership with local school districts towards the goal of enrolling at least 2,000 uninsured children over the next two years and assisting thousands of families in retaining coverage, even as they navigate state and federal changes to the public health coverage system.

As the first County government entity to accept the “Sebelius Challenge” to enroll five million uninsured children nationally, the Alameda County Social Services Agency (SSA) will lead the County-wide effort.

Lori A. Cox, Director of Social Services, commented, "This is an exciting opportunity for the Social Services Agency and all of our collaborating partners. When the County accepted the Sebelius challenge over a year ago, we did so with one goal in mind: to expand outreach and awareness of public health coverage. This grant makes that goal more attainable."

SSA, in partnership with the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency (HCSA), has been awarded \$877,750 to work with local school districts to improve outreach, enrollment, and retention activities for children and families eligible for public health coverage by meeting children and families in their communities and at their schools.

In the Alameda County School Portals Enrollment and Retention Project (AC SPEAR), SSA and HCSA will work closely with the Oakland, Hayward, and San Leandro Unified School Districts. Each school district will establish a Health and Benefits Coordinator position to work with mobile teams of SSA and HCSA specialists to screen, enroll, and retain clients in Medi-Cal, as well as other health coverage and public benefits.

The Agency has a phone number, 510-COVER-US (510/268-3787), to provide the public with information about Medi-Cal, eligibility, and how to apply. People may also apply online at www.benefitscalwin.org or go to www.dhcs.ca.gov to download application forms.

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