



News Release
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Michigan Primary Care Association Responds to the Challenge:
Connecting 5 Million Uninsured Kids to Health Insurance Coverage in 5 Years

LANSING, Mich. --- [Michigan Primary Care Association](#) (MPCA) has responded to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan's [national challenge to enroll uninsured children](#) in low-cost or free health insurance programs with a [statewide Back-to-School enrollment campaign](#).

"Nothing is more important to our future than the health of our children. No child should have to skip a doctor's appointment or go without the medicine they need because their family can't pay," said Secretary Sebelius. "Despite the great advances that states have made over the years, there are nearly five million uninsured children who are currently eligible for coverage but are not enrolled. I'm challenging everyone, from my state and federal counterparts, to local governments and community-based organizations, to Health Centers and school districts, to faith-based groups and Indian tribes, to take this conversation about children's coverage to the next level – to find and enroll those five million kids."

MPCA has partnered with the [Michigan Cover the Uninsured Network](#) to sponsor their Back-to-School campaign, which addresses the Secretaries' challenge and targets the 172,000 uninsured children in Michigan.

Schools have trusted relationships with parents and can play an integral role in enrolling children. A [report by the Kaiser Family Foundation](#) suggests that parents of children eligible for low-cost or free health insurance programs would enroll their children if they could do so at school.

"The education community has a critical role to play in finding and enrolling eligible children" Duncan said. "We're working to involve every member of the school community, including superintendents, principals, teachers, school nurses, and lunch room staff in meeting this achievable challenge."

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[Nearly all \(88%\) uninsured children in Michigan are eligible](#) for a low-cost or free health insurance program, and MPCACommunity Outreach Specialists positioned across the state can help families with the application process or provide information and free materials to school districts interested in joining the enrollment challenge.

For more information on the programs dial 2-1-1 or visit www.mpca.net/enroll.html to talk to your local outreach specialist today!

About Michigan Primary Care Association

Michigan Primary Care Association has been the voice for Community Health Centers and other community-based providers in Michigan since 1980. It is a leader in building a healthy society in which all residents have convenient and affordable access to quality health care. MPCA's mission is to promote, support, and develop comprehensive, accessible, and affordable quality community-based primary care services to everyone in Michigan. For more information, please visit www.mpca.net or call 517.381.8000.

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