



# **Nicole Ravenell, MPP President and CEO**

## **Public Health Coverage for Children Opportunities and Challenges**

**May 16, 2007**

# Southern Institute on Children and Families

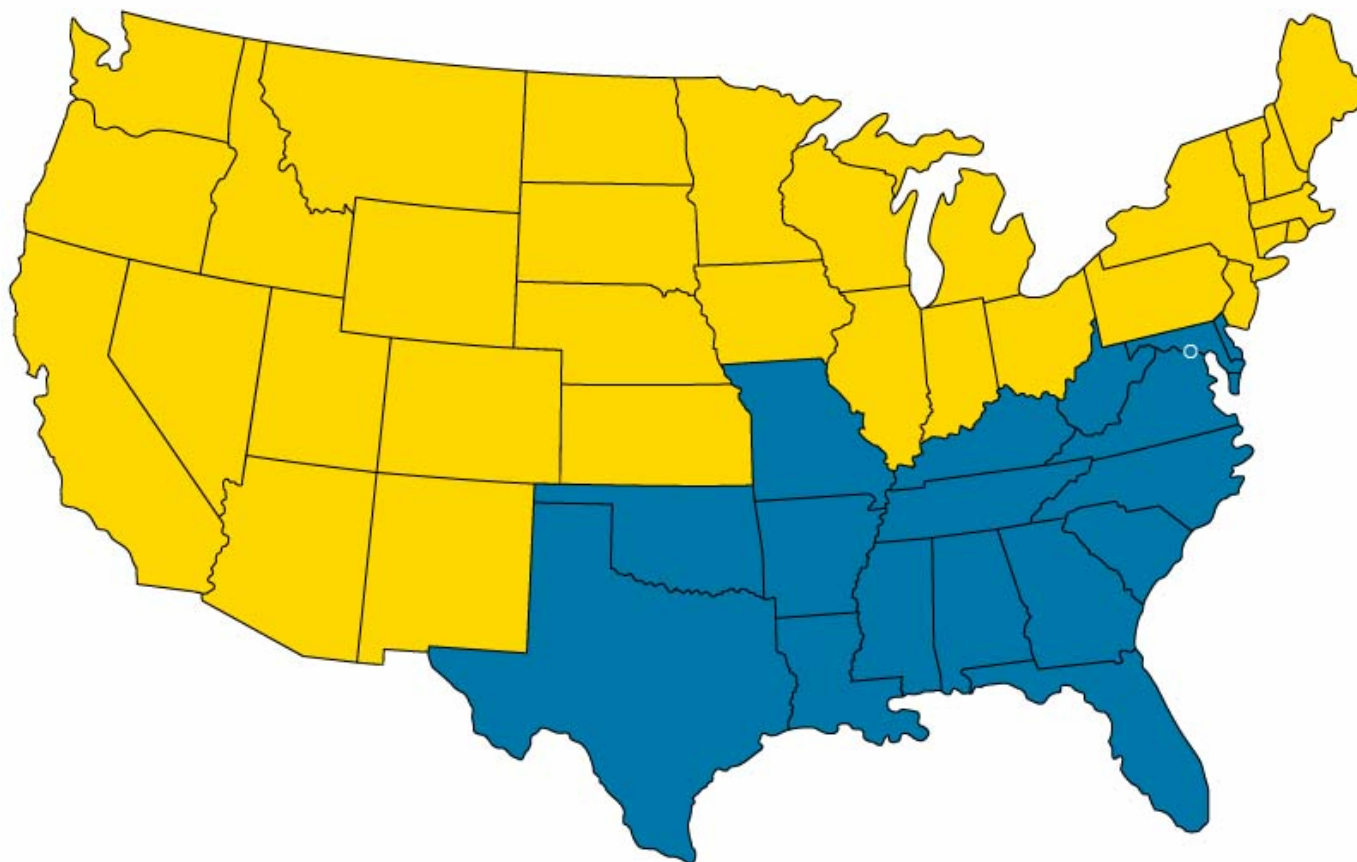
## Mission Statement

*The Southern Institute on Children and Families is an independent, non-profit organization that improves the well-being of children and families through knowledge, leadership and action.*



# Southern Institute on Children and Families

## Geographic Focus\*



\*Note: The Southern Institute on Children and Families directs national, regional, state and local programs consistent with our mission, with a special focus on the Southern Region.



Knowledge – Leadership - Action

# Southern Region

- Thirteen (13) southern states and the District of Columbia have a higher percentage of children living in poverty than the nation as a whole.
- Of the 9 million uninsured children, 4 million (45%) reside in the South.
- Forty-five percent (45%) of uninsured children in the South are below the poverty level.
- Nine (9) southern states and the District of Columbia have a greater percentage of fourth grade students reading below grade level than the rest of the nation.

# The Opportunity

- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Commitment
  - Covering Kids
  - Supporting Families After Welfare Reform
  - Covering Kids & Families
- The Southern Institute's Experience and Leadership in Documenting Barriers to Medicaid Coverage
- Passage of SCHIP in 1997

# The Goals

- Reduce the number of uninsured children and adults who are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP coverage, but remain uninsured
- Improve eligibility processes to facilitate the enrollment and renewal processes
- Build knowledge, experience and capacity to achieve an enduring national and regional commitment to sustain the enrollment and retention of children and adults

# The Accomplishments

- Knowledgeable network of people across the nation
- More public and private entities engaged in the effort
- Better coordination between Medicaid and SCHIP
- Supportive and engaged state eligibility agencies
- More progressive policies enacted to simplify the application and renewal processes



# The Accomplishments: Expanded Eligibility

## Children's Medicaid and SCHIP Policy - 2006

- Increased Eligibility
  - 15 out of 18 Southern States including DC at 200% or higher of the Federal Poverty Level (4 states above 200% FPL)
- Eliminated Asset Tests
  - 16 out of 18 Southern States including DC
- Eliminated Face-to-Face Interview
  - 15 out of 18 Southern States including DC
- Continuous Eligibility
  - 9 out of 18 Southern States including DC (6 Medicaid, 7 SCHIP)



SOURCE: Resuming the Path to Health Coverage for Children and Parents, KCMU, January 2007



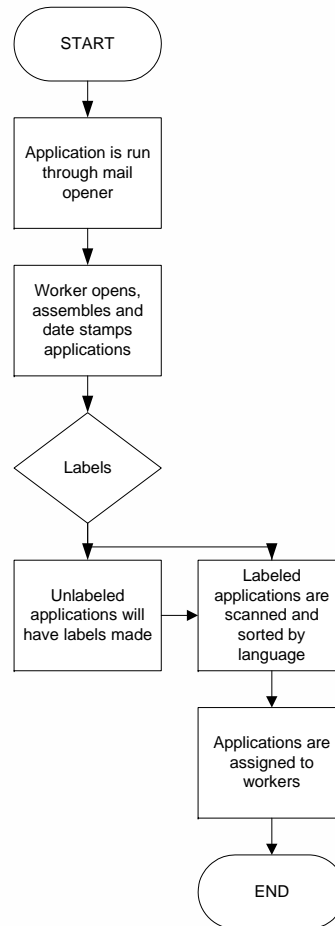
# The Accomplishments: Improved Enrollment and Outreach

- Increased availability of applications
- Increased application assistance
  - Online applications
  - Mail-in applications
  - Toll-free assistance
- More dignified experience for families
- Increased awareness of Medicaid and SCHIP



# To this

## Proposed OHP Application Process

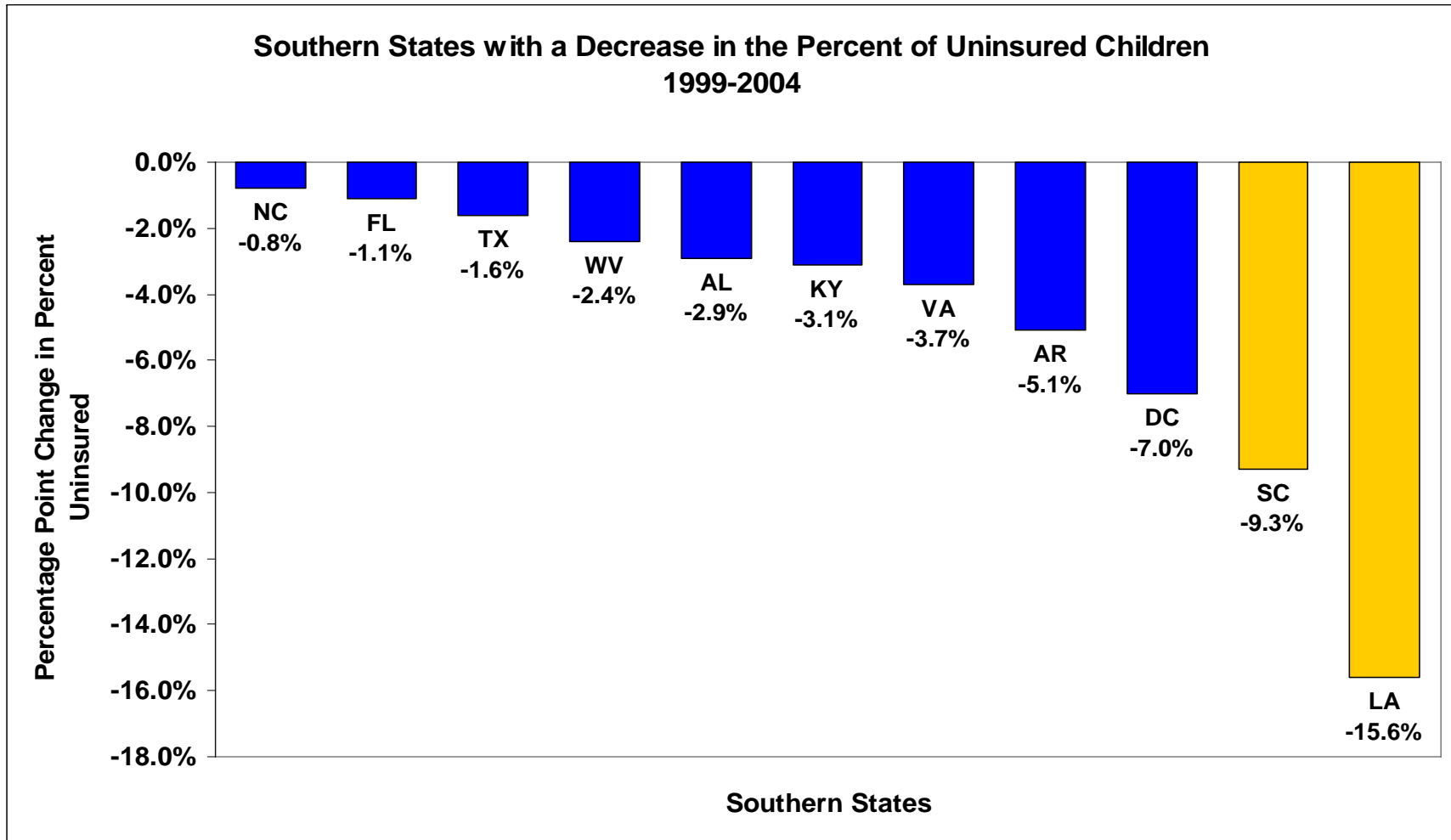


Provided by the Oregon Department of Human Services

# Successful Strategies for Enrollment

- Pennsylvania uses a Web-based application system to support simplification efforts
- Iowa uses an automated referral process between Medicaid and SCHIP to ensure that children don't lose coverage
- Louisiana uses a simplified eligibility process, including performing ex parte reviews

# Uninsured Children



# What Remains to be Done

- Reauthorization and adequate funding of SCHIP
- Continued and expanded outreach
- Improvements in the eligibility process, including retention
- Engagement of key partners such as providers and employers
- State initiatives on coverage