



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2008

For More Information Contact
Rebecca Mendoza, DMAS (804) 786-3206
Debbie Oswalt, VHCF (804) 828-5804

New Online Training Makes it Easier for Outreach Workers to get More Kids Enrolled in FAMIS

RICHMOND, VA – FAMIS – Virginia’s health insurance programs for children and pregnant women - in partnership with the Virginia Health Care Foundation announce the launch of the new SignUpNow (SUN) online training modules. These online modules provide a more user friendly training option for Community Outreach Workers who want to assist families with the FAMIS (Family Access to Medical Insurance Security) enrollment process. The SUN online training modules can be accessed by clicking on the Training page on the FAMIS website (www.famis.org) or by accessing this direct link to the SignUpNow section of the Virginia Health Care Foundation website <http://www.vhcf.org/children/SUNOn-DemandTraining.php>.

SignUpNow (SUN), an initiative of the Virginia Health Care Foundation, seeks to promote Virginia’s state-sponsored health insurance programs for children and pregnant women, including FAMIS, FAMIS Plus (children’s Medicaid), FAMIS MOMS and Medicaid for Pregnant Women. The SUN trainings, underwritten by Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), provide an in-depth seminar of the health insurance application process. Included in the training is an overview of the FAMIS programs, eligibility information, application assistance training, and information about program changes. The training is designed for individuals and organizations, especially for those working one-to-one with families, and those who are interested in learning how to assist families in completing the application process for children and pregnant women.

The online training curriculum is based on information from the SUN three-hour live workshops. Since SUN began conducting training sessions throughout Virginia, over 8,400 eligibility individuals have been trained to assist families in applying for the FAMIS programs. There are currently over 450,000 children enrolled in FAMIS or FAMIS Plus (children’s Medicaid) and over 17,000 pregnant women enrolled in FAMIS MOMS and Medicaid for Pregnant Women.

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Still, more than 100,000 children are eligible for Virginia's FAMIS programs but are not currently enrolled. This new online, on-demand training curriculum will allow workers and advocates to access the training from any computer without travel and wait times. Participants will be able to complete the modules at their own convenience. Each module takes approximately 20-30 minutes to complete and contains a graded post-test. The training also contains helpful attachments to documents and web sites that can be referenced when completing an application for FAMIS or FAMIS Plus. The SUN online training modules will increase the number of community outreach workers and advocates who can assist children and pregnant women with enrollment into FAMIS, FAMIS Plus, FAMIS MOMS or Medicaid for Pregnant Women.

FAMIS provides health insurance to uninsured children. This includes comprehensive medical benefits, including doctor's visits, hospital care, prescriptions, mental health, dental care, eye care, and more. The FAMIS MOMS program provides health care coverage for pregnant women. Families may apply for Virginia's health insurance programs for children and pregnant women, by filling out an e-application at the FAMIS website www.famis.org, by calling toll-free 1-866-87FAMIS (1-866-873-2647), or by visiting their local Department of Social Services office. For more information about FAMIS please visit www.famis.org.

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