

**News Release**  
**Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**  
30 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414

**Ted Strickland**  
Governor

**Helen Jones-Kelley**  
Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 1, 2008**

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Governor Strickland launches program to provide access to health care for children in families above  
300% of Poverty Line

*Applications now being accepted for coverage beginning in June*

Governor Ted Strickland today signed an executive order establishing the Children's Buy-In Program, which allows uninsured special-needs children in families with incomes more than 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) to apply online for health care coverage through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

"The Children's Buy-In Program lessens the burden and worry for parents who have had difficulty obtaining coverage for their children due to a special condition," Strickland said. "Affordable access to health care coverage is crucial to ensuring that families can lay a solid foundation for their children to enjoy future success. I greatly appreciate the work of the legislative members that made this program possible and their to commitment providing health care for Ohio's children."

Under the program, families earning more than 300 percent FPL with children under the age of 19 can pay a monthly income-based premium for health care coverage, provided one of the following criteria apply:

- Unable to obtain insurance coverage due to a preexisting condition;
- Lost the only available insurance coverage because of a lifetime benefit limitation;
- Cost of the only available insurance is more than twice the state premium for CBI; or the
- Child participates in the Ohio Department of Health's Program for Medically Handicapped Children.

Premiums will range from around \$250 to \$500 a month. For additional information or to apply for CBI, visit [www.jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/cbi](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/cbi).

While this state-funded program is not an entitlement, ODJFS expects to enroll around 5,000 uninsured or hard to insure children by June 30, 2009.

The complete executive order is below:



**TED STRICKLAND**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

## **Executive Order 2008 –07S**

### **Immediate Adoption of Rules to Establish Eligibility and Related Requirements for the Children's Buy-In Program**

- 1. Creation of the Children's Buy-In Program.** Ohio law requires the Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to create the Children's Buy-In (CBI) Program. The Program will be created to provide health care coverage to certain uninsured individuals under age nineteen who have family income of over 300% of the federal poverty guidelines. In order to effectively implement the Program, ODJFS must also adopt rules that establish various requirements associated with the implementation and administration of the Program.
- 2. Making the New Rules Establishing Eligibility and Related Requirements Effective April 1, 2008.** Because ODJFS is scheduled to begin accepting applications for the CBI Program beginning April 1, 2008, amendments to the Ohio Administrative Code establishing eligibility, monthly premium, co-pay, and other program requirements must be enacted immediately.
- 3. Procedure for Immediate Adoption of New Rules.** Section 119.03 of the Ohio Revised Code authorizes the Governor, on the request of a state agency, to suspend the normal rule-making procedures with respect to a specific rule when an emergency exists necessitating the immediate adoption, amendment or recession of the rule. When such a determination is made, the agency may immediately adopt that rule, but the rule is valid for only ninety (90) days.
- 4. Determination of an Emergency.** I believe that an emergency exists justifying the suspension of the normal rule-making process when failure to act immediately would negatively impact the citizens of Ohio. ODJFS has asked me to determine, and I have determined, that the failure to immediately adopt rules establishing eligibility and related requirements for the CBI Program will negatively impact Ohioans who will rely on the Program when they are deemed eligible in order to secure health coverage and benefits that would not otherwise be affordable. Therefore, an emergency exists necessitating the immediate adoption of new administrative rules in this regard.
- 5. Authorization for Immediate Rule Implementation.** Accordingly, the normal rule-making procedures are suspended with respect to adoption of Rules 5101:1-42-30, 5101:3-25-01, 5101:3-25-02, 5101:3-25-02.1, 5101:3-25-03, 5101:3-25-03.1, 5101:3-25-05, 5101:3-25-05.1, 5101:3-25-06, 5101:3-25-07, 5101:3-25-07.1, 5101:3-25-08, 5101:3-25-08.2, 5101:3-25-08.3, 5101:3-25-08.4, 5101:3-25-08.5, 5101:3-25-09, 5101:3-25-09.1, 5101:3-25-10, 5101:3-25-11, 5101:3-25-12 of the Ohio Administrative Code, establishing eligibility and related requirements for the Children's Buy-In Program. ODJFS may, therefore, adopt these rules immediately by electronically filing them with the Secretary of State, the Director of the Legislative Service Commission and the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.
- 6.** I signed this Executive Order on April 1, 2008. It will expire at the end of the ninetieth day it is in effect, June 30, 2008.

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Ted Strickland, Governor

**ATTEST:**

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Jennifer Brunner, Secretary of State