



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **County Honors Kaiser Permanente for Children's Health Insurance Program**

*Kaiser Responds to the Needs of Uninsured and Vulnerable Children in Santa Clara County*

**SAN JOSE, CALIF.**--- There are approximately 1,230 children on the Healthy Kids waiting list, an example of the need for affordable health insurance options in Santa Clara County. Today, the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors honored Kaiser Permanente for responding to the needs of uninsured and vulnerable children in Santa Clara County. Kaiser Permanente's "Child Health Plan" has joined the County's "Healthy Kids," as an option available to low- and moderate-income families whose children are not eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families.

"I commend Kaiser Permanente for joining local efforts to provide health care coverage to uninsured children, said Supervisor Liz Kniss, Chair of the Board's Health and Hospital Committee. "Through the efforts of community partners such as Kaiser Permanente, health insurance is now available for children who otherwise would continue to wait."

Kaiser Permanente subsidizes the cost of care and insurance coverage for over 330,000 people throughout California, including 25,000 children. Under the Kaiser Permanente's "Child Health Plan," parents pay no more than \$15 per month per child for full medical and dental coverage. And children are eligible for the plan regardless of immigration status, which might make them ineligible for some state and federal health programs.

"Kaiser Permanente's commitment to total health includes programs like the Children's Health Plan, which is our way of ensuring the vitality of our state's youngest and most vulnerable population," said Mary Ann Barnes, Sr. VP and Area Manager of Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara. "By helping them get the coverage they need and by supporting innovative programs that promote health, together, we will continue to address the complex healthcare challenges facing our county residents."

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Kaiser Permanente's "Child Health Plan" is stepping in to fill the gap for children on the Healthy Kids waiting list. In 2001, the County launched the State's first Children's Health Initiative with the goal to give every child in Santa Clara County access to regular health care as a result of being insured; and that parents who have an income at or below 300% of the federal poverty level, can get health coverage for their children. To make these goals a reality, the County created and helped fund a local health insurance program, Healthy Kids, for children ineligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families due to income or immigration status.

"While the Children's Health Initiative has dramatically improved health coverage for Santa Clara County children in the past few years, demand has outpaced funding," said Robin Roche, Chairperson, Children's Health Initiative of Santa Clara County, "Kaiser Permanente has responded proactively to the pressing needs of children in Santa Clara County, and in the spirit of partnership, is enrolling children from the "Healthy Kids" wait list."

Kaiser Permanente's Child Health Plan is open to uninsured children who:

- Are under age 19
- Are in families earning annual income of less than \$63,600 (family of 4)
- Aren't eligible for government programs, such as Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, or California Children's Services;
- Aren't covered by an employer-funded insurance plan.

To apply or learn more about the Kaiser Child Health Plan, call 1-800-464-4000. To find out more about low- or no-cost health insurance options for children, call CHI at 1-888-CHI-5222.

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