



## **Medicaid Buy-In**

### **Medicaid Buy-In for Children and Their Families**

Due in part to the efforts of many parents, the 81st Legislature passed, and Governor Perry signed, Senate Bill 187 which directs the Health and Human Services Commission to develop and implement a Medicaid Buy-In Program for children with disabilities. This program will benefit families of children who meet the SSI definition of disability and have incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty level which is approximately \$66,000 for a family of four. This will provide an opportunity for families to purchase, on a sliding fee basis, Medicaid health care services for their children with disabilities. Our deepest gratitude goes to Rep. Eddie Lucio, III and Senator Robert Deuell for sponsoring and fighting for both the legislation and the funding needed to make this a reality. The Health and Human Services Commission reports that this program will begin in September 2010. Watch for more information soon.

### **How to Work & Maintain Medicaid Eligibility Medicaid Buy-In for Young Adults (over age 18)**

Few people are aware that the State of Texas authorized Medicaid Buy-In back in 2005, modernizing the employment services system for people with disabilities. In other words, Texans with disabilities are no longer forced to choose between taking a job and having health care. Medicaid Buy-In allows people of any age who have a disability and are working to receive Medicaid by paying a small monthly premium (\$20-\$40/month) based on earned income. The premiums for unearned income can be higher, depending on the amount of unearned income. If your child is about to turn 18 and is working or looking for a job, Medicaid Buy-In can help him/her to maintain Medicaid coverage. After age 18, Medicaid eligibility is based on the young adult's income.

The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), a program of the Health and Human Services Commission, is offering the new work incentive program. This program offers the same services that you get through Medicaid which includes office visits, hospital stays, x-rays, vision services, hearing services and prescriptions. To find out the eligibility requirements for your child and to apply call 211, visit your local HHSC benefits office, or visit [www.YourTexasBenefits.com](http://www.YourTexasBenefits.com) to request an application. For more information on this program, visit the State Employment & Disability Connections website at [www.dars.state.tx.us/edc](http://www.dars.state.tx.us/edc).

## **Texas Parent to Parent**

1805 Rutherford Ln. ★ Suite 201 ★ Austin, TX 78754 ★ 866-896-6001 ★ 512-458-8600

website: [www.txp2p.org](http://www.txp2p.org) ★ Email: [info@txp2p.org](mailto:info@txp2p.org)