

# Communities for Healthy Kids (CHK)

[www.ca-ilg.org/chk](http://www.ca-ilg.org/chk)

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*Neighborhood community centers and trusted agency staff offer great promise as outreach mechanisms to connect with families and spur enrollments.*

## What We Do and Why

A potentially heartbreaking situation exists in California's communities. No and low cost health insurance is available for children of working families, but many families are not aware of it or how to access it.

Through Communities for Healthy Kids, cities and counties are exploring innovative ways to helping families access affordable health insurance for their kids. This means these kids are more likely to get the health care they need to be healthy, perform better at school, and not spread illness to their classmates and teachers.

## Resources

With the assistance of its pilot communities, CHK has identified a number of best practices local agencies can use to help eligible families. For example ...

- ✓ Families view community centers as safe and trusted sources of information.
- ✓ Outreach opportunities include agency programs, like recreation programs, neighborhood watch meetings, and special events such as health fairs
- ✓ Collaboration with county health departments, children's health initiatives, schools, local health plans, and others are crucial.

CHK offers best practices, tips for success, templates and how-to's that can be adapted for any community, along with case stories from those who have used the best practice.

## What is no and low cost health insurance for kids?

- **Medi-Cal** is for working and non-working families covering children up to age 21 to provide comprehensive medical, dental and vision benefits.
- **Healthy Family Program** covers children birth to age 19 and those who do not qualify for free Medi-Cal and have no employer-sponsored health insurance.
- **Children's Health Initiatives (CHIs)** offer coverage in 28 counties for children ineligible for state-sponsored programs.

## Related Institute Programs

- Land Use and Environment



# About the Institute for Local Government

## The Institute

- Promotes good government at the local level
- Supports well-informed, effective, inclusive and responsive leadership

## How We Make a Difference

As the nonprofit research affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties, the Institute provides information, skills and resources to the entire range of city and county officials. The Institute's vision is communities with high levels of trust and confidence in their leaders, where the issues of the day are addressed effectively and collaboratively.

## Key Program Areas

- Climate Change
- Civic Engagement (Collaborative Governance Initiative)
- Communities for Healthy Kids
- Intergovernmental Conflict Resolution
- Land Use and Environment
- Local Government 101
- Public Service Ethics

## What We Do

- Identify and analyze cutting-edge challenges and trends affecting local government
- Develop practical, easy-to-use tools for local officials, including tip sheets, local agency association magazine columns and technical guides
- Provide a wealth of materials online at [www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org)
- Offer training to local officials, including regionally and through local agency associations
- Provide services to individual agencies on a fee basis

## Budget

The Institute has an annual budget of \$1.8 million, leveraging local agency association resources at a one-to-three ratio (see pie chart for funding mix).

## Leadership

15-Member Board of Directors plus Liaisons with League and CSAC Board of Directors

## Over a Half Century of Service to Local Officials

Founded in 1955, the Institute has served local officials for more than 50 years.

