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MEDICAID REDUCES THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED AND IMPROVES LOUISIANANS' HEALTH

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(Baton Rouge – December 15, 2011) As Louisiana's Medicaid program prepares for an era of rapid change, a new report by the Louisiana Budget Project highlights the importance of the state's health-care safety-net for children and families, as well as the state's economy. It is the first in a series of two papers highlighting the key role Medicaid plays in protecting the state's most vulnerable citizens.

It is hardly a secret that Louisianans, on average, are poorer and less healthy than other Americans. But Louisianans would be even worse off without assistance from Medicaid, the federal-state program established to expand access to medical care.

Medicaid provides vital health care services to nearly 30 percent of Louisianans. In 2010, three out of five children in Louisiana received Medicaid. This means nearly 775,000 kids relied on Medicaid for everything from routine checkups to specialty care for serious health conditions.

"Without the Medicaid program, hundreds of thousands of children, seniors, and people with disabilities would lack access to the health care services they need, and the number of uninsured Louisianans would skyrocket," said Jan Moller, director of the Louisiana Budget Project.

The Baton Rouge-based Louisiana Budget Project provides independent research and analysis of Louisiana fiscal issues and their impact on low and moderate income residents.

For a copy of the full report and more information on LBP, visit www.labudget.org and read "[Medicaid in Louisiana: Improving Health, Protecting Children.](#)"

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