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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEVADA CHECK UP PROGRAM MAKING GREAT STRIDES

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP), announced today that the state's version of the federal State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has registered almost nine percent growth in the number of uninsured children enrolled in the past twelve months. Nevada Check Up enrollment for September 2007 is 30,204. That is an increase of over 2,400 children enrolled in the program in September 2006.

"We are encouraged by the growth in the Nevada Check Up program, but we also realize that much more needs to be done to get the message out to other needy families with uninsured children about the benefits of this program," said DHCFP administrator Charles Duarte. "We are preparing to launch an aggressive marketing campaign aimed at the parents of an estimated 85,000 uninsured children living in Nevada." Duarte added that money was appropriated by the 2007 Legislature to carry out the marketing program.

The mission of the Nevada Check Up program is to provide low-cost, comprehensive health care coverage to low-income, uninsured children (birth through 18) who are not covered by private insurance or Medicaid. Nevada Check Up began providing services to children on October 1, 1998. Since its inception, almost 90,000 children have been covered through the program.

To qualify, a child must be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien, cannot be eligible for Nevada Medicaid, cannot have had health insurance within the past six months (or recently lost insurance for reasons beyond the parents' control), must be under age 19 at the date the coverage will begin, and the family's gross annual income must be between 100% to 200% of federal Poverty Level guidelines (for a family of four, the annual household income must be below \$41,300). Quarterly premiums are assessed based on family size and household income.

To find out more about the Nevada Check Up program or about other programs offering health care coverage assistance for low-income Nevadans—such as prenatal coverage for eligible low-income pregnant women and an insurance premium payment subsidy available to eligible low-income small business employees—call 1-877-KIDS NOW or go to <http://dhcfp.state.nv.us>.

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