

August 21, 2009

Contact: Greg Severin
Lents & Associates
314.968.3060
gseverin@lentsandassoc.com



 LSC

LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MISSOURI RECEIVES \$30,000 GRANT TO HELP STATE MAXIMIZE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN

ST. LOUIS – Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (LSEM) has received a \$30,000 grant from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to provide advocacy and education around the implementation of the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA).

“We will use this funding to work with state agencies and service providers to implement new provisions of this landmark legislation so that needy Missouri children receive the health coverage to which they are entitled,” said Joel Ferber, Managing Attorney of LSEM’s Health & Welfare Unit. “Having health insurance through Medicaid or CHIP will ensure that low-income children have better access to health care and improved health outcomes.”

CHIPRA was one of the first pieces of legislation passed by the 111th Congress in 2009 and signed into law by President Barack Obama. The Act extends and expands the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (now referred to as CHIP), which was enacted a decade ago. CHIPRA adds \$33 billion in federal funds for children’s coverage over the next four years, and is expected to provide coverage to 4.1 million children in Medicaid and CHIP who otherwise would have been uninsured by 2013.

“Our goal is to ensure that Missouri maximizes its new opportunities to improve access to health insurance for low-income children in our state,” said Ferber.

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri is an independent, non-profit organization that has provided high quality legal assistance in civil cases to the low-income community for more than 50 years. In 2008, LSEM represented over 6,500 clients in 21 counties.

###