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USF gets nearly \$1 million from HHS for Medicaid, CHIP outreach

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The **University of South Florida** was awarded \$988,177 from the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** as part of a program to find and enroll children who are uninsured but eligible for either Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.

USF was one of 69 grantees in 41 states and the District of Columbia that received a total of \$40 million in grants, a release from HHS said. USF's award was among the largest awarded nationwide.

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 set aside \$100 million for fiscal years 2009-2013 expressly to help find and enroll eligible children, the release said.

Of the total, \$80 million will be given to states and other organizations, \$10 million to Tribal organizations and \$10 million for a national outreach effort. The awards announced Sept. 30 are for a two-year period ending Dec. 31, 2011, which will then be followed by a second round of \$40 million in new grants, the release said.

Grants were awarded to applicants whose outreach, enrollment and retention efforts will target geographic areas with high rates of eligible but uninsured children, particularly those with racial and ethnic minority groups who are uninsured at higher-than-average rates, the release said.

The grant awards require that recipients be able to show actual increases in enrollment and retention of children already in the programs.

Both CHIP and Medicaid state agencies are to report to the Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services the number of new enrollees and those who retained coverage that are directly attributable to the grant activities. Grantees are also to report activities they believe were the most effective in finding, enrolling and maintaining children in these benefit programs.

The only other grant recipient in Florida was **Fann Ayisyen Nan Miyami Inc.** in Miami, which received \$69,102.