

Health care for children

Oregon officials have given the green light to an effort to help some of the state's 78,000 uninsured children sign up for government health benefits.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in December gave Oregon a \$930,000 grant to pay for the outreach effort, but state officials had planned to withhold part of the grant until July.

The reason: a risk that uninsured children and families would overwhelm the Oregon Health Plan. The Legislature has yet to decide how much money the Health Plan will get.

State officials reconsidered last week after meeting with advocacy groups and foundation officials.

The effort will target homeless youths, Latinos and rural children, among other hard-to-reach populations. The outreach will be halted only if demand exceeds capacity for state health programs, said Jill Skrezyna of the Oregon Health Division.

— *Joe Rojas-Burke* ●