

a healthy future within reach



Alcan



More care for more children in more communities

The health status of South Texas children is markedly worse than that of most other children in Texas and across America. Pediatric diabetes, obesity and asthma rates are among the highest in the nation.

Limited access to insurance coverage, uneven distribution of health care providers, long distances to sources of care, limited public transportation, and other factors compromise the health status of these children.

Hundreds of thousands of residents live in rural communities known as colonias, where public utilities are scarce and health care is nonexistent.

South Texas safety-net providers struggle with indigent-care caseloads that reflect the region's dynamic population growth. Large pediatric caseloads have deterred pediatric providers from participation in current Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Plan) programs. In addition, the region as a whole suffers from shortages of pediatric subspecialty physicians, dentists and mental health providers.

Efforts to identify and enroll children eligible for Medicaid and CHIP are under way, but have not yet done so in a simplified, integrated manner.

The Alcance Project area currently has opportunities to improve access to health care for South Texas children with and without insurance.

"The keen desire of both federal and state agencies to improve the health of South Texas children has given rise to the opportunity for organizations like Alcançe to initially grow from infancy into a mature foundation model to secure an even greater impact on healthy futures for our ethnically diverse South Texas children."

- Chuck Carroll, President, DCHP



delivery and improved health status outcomes for children. The project will be accountable both locally and to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) via self-evaluation plans and participation in a national program evaluation.

HRSA

HRSA is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency that assures access to essential health care for low-income, uninsured and medically underserved populations (www.hrsa.gov). In addition to supporting the ongoing work of Project Alcançe, HRSA funds support a number of community health centers and other providers of community-based primary care across Texas.


CAP

Grantees may access valuable information from the HRSA Web site (www.hrsa.gov) or the Community Access Program (CAP) Web site (www.capcommunity.org). CAP provides technical assistance as well as an online newsletter. The newsletter includes national health news updates, grant opportunities and awards, upcoming conferences, legal updates and related Web resources. Statistics on similar community outreach programs across North America are summarized at www.communityvoices.org.

The Project Alcançe Coalition has identified several strategies to address each of the project's major objectives, which will collectively help provide South Texas children the health care access they need.

These strategies include the following:

- ◊ Improving the distribution of health care manpower and health care coverage for children during transitions between payers, and improving the regional delivery of dental care, behavioral health care and telemedicine to children.
- ◊ Maximizing the impact of the project's efforts by equipping Promotoras (the border counties' cadre of knowledgeable, trusted community health workers) and rural community-based organizations with the medical and technical resources needed to efficiently access valuable health care and insurance enrollment information, along with improving and expanding patient care through nonclinical environmental and social assessment surveys.
- ◊ Implementing a customized computer network that will leverage the efforts of the Alcançe Project by providing system users access to a common communications system of care and disease-state analytics.
- ◊ Encouraging widespread use of the network for information searches; registration of children for Medicaid, CHIP or other coverage; physician access to electronic medical records; and rapid response to health care inquiries.
- ◊ Developing a data repository and reporting platform that will provide quantifiable and quantitative information concerning the effectiveness of population-wide intervention and preventive education over time.



"Our mission is to measurably
improve the health status
of South Texas children
by assuring greater access
to a continuum of physical and
behavioral health services."

Nuestra misión es mejorar
mediblemente el nivel de salud
de los niños del Sur de Texas
asegurandoles un mayor acceso
continuo a los servicios físicos y de
salud mental.

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