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Portico Uses Grant to Help Uninsured Kids

The nonprofit received \$988,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to launch the Minnesota Coalition for Kids Health Coverage.

October 2009 | by [Melissa Loth](#)

Portico Healthnet—a nonprofit agency working to reduce the number of people without coverage for health care services—has been awarded more than \$988,000 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to launch the Minnesota Coalition for Kids Health Coverage.

The Minnesota Coalition for Kids Health Coverage is a partnership of community agencies from around the state that aim to identify and enroll uninsured children into the Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare state health coverage safety net programs.

The funding will be awarded over a two-year period and will nearly double the amount currently being spent by coalition partners in working with uninsured children and their families.

In addition to Portico Healthnet, other agencies within the coalition include Duluth-based Generations Health Care Initiatives, Rochester-based Olmsted Community Action Program, and St. Cloud Area Legal Services.

The \$988,000 grant is one of 69 grants recently announced by the HHS.

“With millions of Americans either out of work or otherwise struggling to make ends meet during this recession, there is an even greater urgency to bring steady, reliable health care to children in these families who may have lost their coverage,” HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said in a statement.

During 2008, St. Paul-based Portico Healthnet infused about \$8 million into Minnesota's health care delivery system.

Melissa Loth is assistant editor at *Twin Cities Business*.

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