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Two MN Orgs Get \$1.27M for Uninsured Kids

Portico Healthnet received \$988,177, and Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota received \$280,000.

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Two Minnesota organizations have received a combined \$1.27 million in federal grants to help them find and enroll uninsured children who are eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Portico Healthnet received \$988,177, and Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota received \$280,000.

The organizations, both based in St. Paul, are among 69 nationwide to receive a combined \$40 million through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for efforts to provide health coverage to uninsured kids.

The funding was made available through the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, which set aside \$100 million for fiscal years 2009 through 2013; the funds will be used to help find and enroll eligible children.

Of the \$100 million, \$80 million will be given to states and other organizations, \$10 million will be given to tribal organizations, and \$10 million will go toward a national outreach effort. The just-announced round of grants is for a two-year period that goes through 2011; it will be followed by a second \$40 million round of grants.

Originally created in 1997, the Children's Health Insurance Program is a state and federal partnership that targets uninsured children and pregnant women in families with incomes too high to qualify for most state Medicaid programs but too low to afford private coverage. Within federal guidelines, each state determines the design of its specific program.

The grants require that recipients show increased enrollment and retention of children already in the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance programs.

Portico Healthnet is a nonprofit health and human services organization that helps uninsured Minnesotans access affordable health care.

Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota helps address the economic, educational, and health needs of Vietnamese refugees and immigrants throughout the state.

Christa Meland is *Twin Cities Business*' research director.