



Children's Health Initiative Success Story



The Tapia Family Orange County

This year, 18-year old Sandra Tapia was diagnosed with a heart condition – her circulatory system was not working properly and there was an insufficient blood flow to her heart. Neither Sandra nor her five siblings: Jessica (17), Vanessa (15), Marlene (13), Carla (10), or Alondra (4) had health insurance. Initially their mother, Herminia, turned to a local community clinic for services, however, Sandra's condition necessitated follow-up care through a specialist. The cost of treating this condition proved to be too difficult for the family to handle on its own. Herminia grew increasingly worried that Sandra's condition would worsen and was told by health providers that, if left untreated, it could affect other systems in her body.

Thankfully, Herminia was introduced to the Children's Health Initiative (CHI) of Orange County through her daughters' school. She learned of the organization's efforts to insure all children in Orange County by exploring their eligibility for the Medi-Cal, Healthy Families or Healthy Kids programs. She completed applications for all six daughters and soon thereafter they were enrolled in either Healthy Families or Healthy Kids.



Herminia is grateful that the CHI of Orange County exists to help parents like her enroll their children in health coverage programs for which they are eligible. As a result of her daughters' health care benefits, Herminia is now able to take Sandra for the vital services she needs, and take her other daughters for routine check-ups with their doctor and dentist. In addition, Herminia takes great comfort in knowing that, should another emergency occur, her children will receive prompt medical treatment without financially overwhelming her family.