



## Children's Health Initiative Success Story



### The Vasquez Family Santa Clara County

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If it weren't for the state children's health insurance (SCHIP) program known as Healthy Families, Maria Vasquez's children would not have health insurance. Maria's husband works as a gardener and his employer does not offer insurance benefits. The family cannot afford the cost of a private health insurance plan and, until recently, Alejandro (age 14) and Agustin (9) were uninsured.

Maria learned about the Children's Health Initiative (CHI) of Santa Clara County, a local organization that helps Santa Clara County families enroll in public and private insurance programs. The CHI helped Maria fill out an application for Alejandro and Agustin, and soon they were approved for Healthy Families. The boys now receive routine medical, dental and vision check ups through their regular doctors.



Pictured: Alejandro, Maria and Agustin Vasquez

In addition to routine care, Healthy Families makes it possible for Alejandro to benefit from specialists that are putting him on a healthier track. Alejandro's pediatrician was concerned with the boy's weight gain and referred him to a nutritionist, who designed Alejandro a diet and exercise plan. Alejandro is already losing weight, feels happier and is doing much better.

Millions of working families in California have benefited from the Healthy Families program since its enactment a decade ago. As Congress considers SCHIP reauthorization in 2007, Maria and her husband hope that Healthy Families is renewed and expanded, so that children from working families like theirs can benefit from health insurance and maintain good health.