

Health Reform: What's in It for Kids?

The Basics

Trough a combination of Medicaid and our Child Health Plus program, all kids in New York should have access to affordable care regardless of income or their parent's job situation. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) takes this coverage a step further by adding more cost and coverage protections for kids.

Comprehensive Care

The new law makes it easier for more kids to get quality health care at a lower cost. It will:

- Require all kids to have health insurance, starting in 2014.
- Raise Medicaid eligibility levels for kids ages 6 to 8 from 100% of FPL up to 133% of FPL (\$24,350 for a family of three).
- Allow children of state employees to enroll in Child Health Plus if their existing coverage is unaffordable.
- Let former foster kids who have "aged out" of the system keep their Medicaid coverage until they turn 26.
- Make kids in families who earn less than 400% of FPL (\$73,240 for a family of three) eligible for premium subsidies to purchase private insurance on the Exchange.
- In 2013 and 2014, raise Medicaid reimbursement levels for primary care doctors will be to the Medicare levels in order to attract more health care providers to the Medicaid network.
- Ban pre-existing condition coverage exclusions for kids starting this year.



Some kids with Child Health Plus will be newly eligible for better coverage under Medicaid.

- Require new health plans to include basic pediatric services that include dental and vision care, starting in 2014.
- Require health plans to cover prevention and wellness benefits and exempt them from co-pays and deductibles.



All kids in New York can get quality health care at a price their family can afford.

CHIP

The new health law includes two additional years of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known as Child Health Plus in NY. While the program will still need to be reauthorized after 2015, the bill includes an increase in the funding rate for states between 2016 and 2019.

States are also not allowed to cut back their Medicaid and CHIP programs beyond the levels they were on March 23, 2010.

New Initiatives on Childhood Obesity

The new law also includes new initiatives to combat childhood obesity. These include:

- \$25 million in funding to the Childhood Obesity Demonstration project (established through the recent CHIP legislation) which will award grants to develop a systematic model for reducing childhood obesity.
- Requires each state to design a public awareness campaign on wellness and obesity-related services for Medicaid enrollees.



The new law will provide funding for new initiatives to address the growing problem of childhood obesity.

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This fact sheet was prepared for Health Care For All New York by the Community Health Service Society of New York (CSS): www.cssny.org