



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families

Washington's commitment to health coverage for all children

Washington State's Cover All Kids Law—Senate Bill 5093, adopted in March 2007—affirmed our commitment to offer coverage options and ensure access to care for all children. In 2009, Governor Chris Gregoire and the state legislature renewed their commitment to covering all kids in the face of an unprecedented economic crisis by maintaining investments in children's coverage and outreach to families and passing the Apple Health for Kids Act—House Bill 2128.

Key features of Washington's children's health coverage laws:

Unified, comprehensive children's health coverage: Apple Health for Kids consolidates several programs, offering a single streamlined enrollment process and the same comprehensive benefits to all eligible applicants. Eligibility is based on residence and income only. Medical, dental, vision and mental health services are covered.

Affordable options for all kids: Children up to 300 percent FPL now qualify for free or affordable coverage. Families earning below 200 percent FPL pay no premiums. Families with higher incomes should be able to purchase unsubsidized coverage starting in 2010.

An open door for families: The state is required to improve enrollment and renewal processes to make it easier for families to get and keep coverage. Express lanes will make it easy for families applying for child care and food assistance to get medical coverage for their kids at the same time. Outreach ensures that parents have access to accurate information about available children's health coverage options and the enrollment process.

Beyond coverage—healthier kids: Washington's laws seek to ensure that children will be able to see a doctor, encourage high quality care through a medical home, invest in outreach to find and enroll eligible families and declare goals for nutrition and exercise in schools. All components are critical to improving the health and well being of Washington children.

Defining and measuring high-quality care: The state must identify health indicators and quality improvement measures that will improve access to care through medical homes.



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