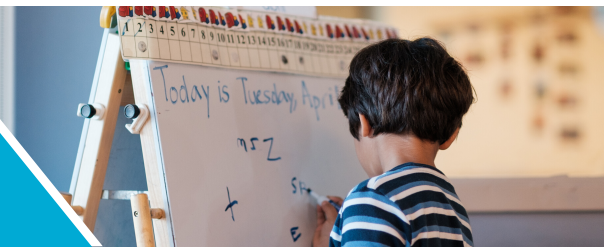


# Our Recommendations

## Health Care and the COVID-19 Challenge



The COVID-19 pandemic brings unprecedented public health challenges and a new urgency to ensure all children have access to health care services. The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and the Florida HealthyKids Corporation have taken swift and decisive actions to promote telehealth access and waive copayments for most services, eliminating barriers children may face in accessing necessary care.

We encourage AHCA and HealthyKids to make further changes during this public health emergency to align current provisions for enrollment and access between Medicaid and Florida KidCare programs funded through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently released additional Medicaid funding to help states—a "bump" in the percentage of costs paid by the federal government. As a condition of accepting the extra funding, Florida agreed to several measures to ensure the greatest number of individuals remain insured or gain access to health insurance. However, under current law, these conditions do not apply equally to CHIP-funded programs.

Freezing disenrollment for CHIP will free up KidCare staff to focus on the influx of new applicants as opposed to renewals and re-eligibility determinations. Eliminating premiums and cost-sharing will remove an administrative burden on health care providers so they can focus on providing services, and on KidCare administrators who don't need to worry about premium collection or lockouts for nonpayment.

### → Keep children insured

Do not disenroll any children from KidCare during this crisis. Postpone any renewal deadlines and re-eligibility determinations until 90 days after the end of the emergency declaration.

### → Ensure children have health care coverage when they need it

Eliminate waiting periods for children to enroll in KidCare. Enroll uninsured children today.

### → Focus on providing health care services

Low-income families are the hardest hit by the economic downturn during this crisis. Waive premiums and cost-sharing to make sure they can afford the health care they need for their children.

Florida requires children to be  
**uninsured** for  
**2 Months**  
before enrolling in Kidcare



**339,000**  
**uninsured**  
**children**  
in Florida as of 2018

