



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families

Federal Health Reform: A Win for Washington Kids and Families

We know that when children are healthy, they stand a greater chance at succeeding in school and in life. Apple Health for Kids has made Washington a national leader in providing kids the health care they need to thrive. But there is still a need – 78,000 kids in Washington state remain uninsured. The historic health care reforms that President Obama signed into law in March 2010 will help Washington and states across the country continue providing affordable health coverage for children and their families.

Key features of health care reform for Washington's kids and families:

Sick kids won't be denied coverage: The Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act bars insurance companies from the unethical practice of denying any child coverage based on pre-existing conditions starting in September 2010.

High standards for children's health care: It is more important than ever to sustain the quality of Washington state's Apple Health for Kids, which gives thousands of children access to comprehensive medical and dental care. The reforms that became law will ensure that federal funding continue through September 2015, and require states to sustain current eligibility levels through September 2019.



Affordable options for all of Washington's families: We've made great strides in ensuring that affordable and appropriate coverage is available for kids, and health care reform helps make this a reality for adults, too. We know that children will benefit when their parents and caregivers are healthy and can get the care they need. The Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act will help a significant number of Washingtonians get access to affordable, high-quality health care, which will make families healthier.

Enhanced access to providers: By improving reimbursement rates to providers, more people will get access to high-quality care. Traditionally, low reimbursement rates for public plans like Apple Health for Kids have posed a challenge for doctors who want to care for as many children as possible but can't afford to do so.

Reducing the number of eligible but uninsured kids: Outreach plays a key role in enrolling children who are currently eligible for coverage but need assistance with applications, renewal of coverage, or connecting to care. Outreach is especially important in enrolling the lowest-income children. Federal reform boosts the amount of grant funding available for outreach by \$40 million.

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