



2021 Bill Highlights

As of 5/3/2021

HB 201 & SB 1244 – Florida KidCare Program Eligibility

Sponsor: Representative Bartleman (D- Weston) & Senator Book (D-Plantation)

Outcome: HB 201 and SB 1244 died in their first committee.

Target Population: Children and families living below 300% of the federal poverty level, insurance providers.

Summary: Increases the income eligibility threshold for the Medikids and Florida Kidcare programs from 200% below the federal poverty line (FPL) to 300% below the FPL. Allows the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to seek federal waiver approval or submit any state plan amendments necessary to implement requirement. Requires AHCA to examine graduated family contribution rates for newly qualified families under the Florida KidCare program. Specifies that contribution rates are consistent with standards established under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which is a contribution rate of at least \$30 per month for a child/ren with a family income between 200% and 250% of the FPL and a contribution rate of at least \$40 per month for a child/ren with a family income between 250% and 300% of the FPL. These contribution

rates are required to be in addition to the existing rates. Requires AHCA to increase the income eligibility threshold for coverage to 220% for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and by 20% each year until meeting the threshold of 300%.

How the bills differ:

- The bills are identical.

Impact: Florida KidCare is the umbrella term that encompasses all Florida government-sponsored children's health insurance programs. Florida KidCare is designed to match families with one of the four Florida KidCare programs for free or low cost health insurance -- Medicaid, MediKids, Florida Healthy Kids, or the Children's Medical Services Managed Care Plan. Florida children from birth to the age of 18 are eligible for coverage under the Florida KidCare program. There are approximately 2.4 million Florida children enrolled.

In 2019 Florida was ranked 8th highest in the nation for children without health insurance. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, over 73% of those uninsured had one or more full time workers in the family and almost 34% had a family income at 200-399% of the FPL. Almost 74% named coverage not being affordable as the reason for not being insured. Children of color are more likely to be uninsured than their White peers. Lack of health insurance means families are more likely to avoid receiving medical services when needed, compromising a child's healthy development and early learning capacity.

Children need access to health care services and this increase in income eligibility allows more families to participate in the Florida KidCare program. The Children's Campaign supports legislation that will help vulnerable children get the health services they need.

Effective Date: July 1st, 2021



