



Children's Health Coverage Updates & Issues

Consortium for a Healthier Miami Dade

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Continuous Eligibility Requirement for Children on Medicaid and CHIP

Background:

- There was a longstanding option for states to provide up to 12 months of continuous eligibility for children in their Medicaid and CHIP programs.
 - Prior to January 1, 2024, Florida only required continuous Medicaid eligibility of one year for children under age 5. (Children under age 19 were entitled to 6 months of continuous coverage.)
- Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2023 made it a requirement that all state Medicaid and CHIP programs extend 12 months of continuous coverage to eligible children, effective January 1, 2024.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [October 2023 FAQ](#): interpreted CAA as requiring full year of continuous coverage for children in Medicaid and CHIP, regardless of change in eligibility and/or failure to pay premium.

Status:

- Children on Medicaid are entitled to a full year of coverage
- Children in CHIP (**Florida KidCare**) are entitled to a full year of coverage regardless of change in income; unclear if entitled to continuous eligible for failure to pay premium
 - Issue: On February 1, the State of [Florida filed a lawsuit](#) in federal court in Tampa against CMS asking the federal court to allow it to continue to terminate CHIP children for nonpayment of premiums

Kidcare Expansion:

- The 2023 Legislature expanded subsidies for KidCare to 300% of poverty.
- The expansion was supposed to be effective Jan 1 of this year but was delayed.

- The state filed an 1115 Waiver to implement the expansion.
 - FHJP filed this [comment letter](#)
 - [CMS sent the 1115 back to the state](#): Lacked summary of public comment and expenditure and enrollment data

Medicaid “Unwind” Impact on Medically Complex Children:

- Medically complex kids: Under [Florida’s Medicaid Redetermination Plan](#), children with complex medical conditions were scheduled to go at the end of the unwind period, March-April 2024.
- Many will be transitioning to KidCare; and for many it is critical there not be a gap in coverage. [See e.g. Penelope, Chapter 2.](#)
- [FHJP Q & A for parents](#)

Data on Medicaid losses in Miami Dade County between April 2023 and January 2024 (Children, 19-20 year olds and parents)

- Children 0-18: over 60,000 fewer on Medicaid (16.55 % decrease)
- Children 19-20: over 15,000 fewer on Medicaid (43.88% decrease) (NOTE: many may still be eligible for Medicaid but outreach needed, see [Q & A](#))
- Adults : over 76,000 fewer are on Medicaid ((28.33% decrease)

Data on KidCare MDC increase between April 2023 and December 2023:

April 2023 :	17, 910
December 2023:	25, 773
Increase:	7, 863

RESOURCES:

- [Medicaid Termination Referral form](#)
- [Toolkit on Appeals](#)
 - Import of pre termination appeal

For questions contact Miriam Harmatz, harmatz@floridahealthjustice.org, 786-853-9385