



# Florida KidCare

## 2010 Summary of Recommendations

Florida KidCare Coordinating Council

### Federal Recommendations

- Allow the Title XIX Vaccines for Children program to be used for the Children's Health Insurance Program. (22 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions)
- Increase Medicaid eligibility for children ages 1 through 18 to 150% of the federal poverty level. (17 yes, 1 no, 4 abstentions)
- Repeal the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program citizenship and identity documentation requirements for children. (17 yes, 3 no, 2 abstentions)
- Provide sufficient federal funding and remove enrollment impediments from Title XXI of the Social Security Act, such as restrictions on public employees' children who would otherwise qualify for subsidies. (16 yes, 2 no, 4 abstentions)

*For more information about the Florida KidCare Program  
visit [www.floridakidcare.org](http://www.floridakidcare.org)*

The Florida KidCare Coordinating Council, created in Section 409.818(2)(b), F.S., is responsible for making recommendations concerning the implementation and operation of the Florida KidCare Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Chaired by the State Surgeon General, the council represents a diverse group of child advocates, health care providers, local government representatives, health insurers, state universities and state agencies.

Each year, the council recommends a variety of strategies to improve Florida KidCare. The council adopted recommendations that it believes present the best opportunity to make it easier for eligible children to remain in the program and to help newly eligible children enroll.

The council prioritized its state recommendations for 2010. These recommendations are presented in order of importance based on the members' priority rankings. The council also adopted four federal recommendations, which are not prioritized.

Twenty-two council members or their designees participated in voting for the council's 2010 recommendations. The recommendations reflect the interest of the council as a whole. Individual members or the organizations they represent, however, may not support some of the recommendations.

## State Recommendations

1. Fully fund the Florida KidCare program, including its annualization needs and projected growth needs in order to maximize the use of Florida's CHIP federal funds and include all eligible uninsured children. *(20 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions)*
2. Implement 12 months of continuous eligibility for all Florida KidCare components. *(16 yes, 0 no, 6 abstentions)*
3. Increase Medicaid reimbursement for physician and dental services provided to children ages 0 to 21, in order to ensure access to care. For physicians, the reimbursement should be increased at least to Medicare levels. For dentists, since there is no Medicare benchmark, the reimbursement should be appropriate to ensure access to care. *(9 yes, 0 no, 13 abstentions)*
4. Cover pregnant women with incomes 185% to 200% of the federal poverty level with Title XXI funding and presumptive eligibility. *(15 yes, 3 no, 4 abstentions)*
5. Cover legal immigrant children and pregnant women during their first five years in the U.S. *(16 yes, 2 no, 4 abstentions)*
6. Reinstate and implement presumptive eligibility for all Florida KidCare program components. *(15 yes, 3 no, 4 abstentions)*
7. Restore and fund Florida KidCare community coordination, retention efforts, and health, family education and utilization functions to reach uninsured children. *(18 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions)*
8. Extend full pay Florida KidCare coverage to infants from birth with family incomes above the established federal income eligibility for CHIP. *(18 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions)*
9. Implement a medical income disregard for children with catastrophic illnesses who would otherwise qualify for Title XXI subsidies. *(15 yes, 3 no, 4 abstentions)*
10. Allow coverage in all of the Florida KidCare program components for children not eligible for Title XIX or Title XXI up to at least the established federal income eligibility for CHIP, using only state and local funds with no federal match. *(13 yes, 3 no, 6 abstentions)*
  - Using Title XXI funding, adopt a seamless system for children with special health care needs by moving to Medicaid CMS Network (CMSN) eligible children with family incomes up to at least the established federal income eligibility for CHIP. *(16 yes, 0 no, 6 abstentions)*
  - Implement the state option Family Opportunity Act pursuant to the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. *(16 yes, 2 no, 4 abstentions)*
  - Use a single entity to determine a child's financial eligibility for all of the Florida KidCare program components. *(12 yes, 5 no, 5 abstentions)*