



## News & Updates

March 24, 2010

### What does health reform mean for children and families in Kentucky?

**Health reform is a major victory for Kentucky children and families. It delivers what families need: affordable, reliable health coverage that won't disappear if they lose a job or get sick.**

- **Delivers quality coverage for the whole family ....**
  - Requires insurance companies to provide pediatrician-recommended care for children so they can grow and thrive
  - Continues the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP), which has successfully worked in partnership with Medicaid to cover over 57,000 kids in Kentucky
  - Allows parents to keep their college-age children (up to age 26) on their family health plans.
  
- **That they can rely on when they need it most ...**
  - Ends insurance companies' discrimination based on pre-existing conditions. Starting right away, children who have insurance can't be denied coverage for a pre-existing condition.
  - Ensures that losing a job no longer means families also have to worry about becoming uninsured
  
- **At a cost families can afford ...**
  - Makes coverage more affordable for middle class families by boosting their bargaining power and providing tax credits to those who need extra help through health insurance exchanges.
  - Provides Medicaid coverage to low-income families, allowing children and parents to be covered together.
  
- **Through family-friendly systems with less red tape.**
  - Protects families from insurance bureaucracies that today deny coverage and care to millions of kids.
  - Encourages elimination of red tape, so taxpayers' scarce resources are used covering kids and families, not pushing paper.

**Thanks to KCHIP and Medicaid, we can start to cover uninsured children right now.**

- Now is the time to roll up our sleeves and start working to make sure that it works for the millions of America's families who will be expecting results.
- As a first win for families, we can help the tens of thousands of uninsured children in Kentucky who already qualify for KCHIP or MEDICAID to secure coverage.
- Families can apply for coverage today by going to <http://kidshealth.ky.gov> or by calling 877-524-4718.
- Our leaders in Frankfort can help, by removing KCHIP premiums for families between 151 percent-200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and further simplifying the enrollment and renewal process.

For more information, see the following summaries from: [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), [Center for Children and Families](#) at Georgetown University, [Community Catalyst](#), [First Focus](#) and the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#).

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***Kentucky Youth Advocates** is a non-partisan, non-profit, children's advocacy organization. KYA represents a voice for Kentucky's most precious asset – its youth. We believe that Kentucky's youth deserve the opportunities and resources necessary to ensure their productive development and health.*