

# FACT SHEET



## Congress Must Act Quickly to Ensure KidsCare is Safe

### What is KidsCare and Why is it Threatened?

KidsCare (known as CHIP nationally) was created in 1998 through bipartisan effort. A critical deadline for KidsCare is fast approaching. Congress must pass legislation to extend federal funding past September 2017, if not, **more than 20,000 Arizona children could lose lifesaving health coverage.**

KidsCare provides high quality, affordable healthcare to low-income children in working families. A family of three with children covered through KidsCare can earn between \$27,000 to \$40,000 per year.



**KidsCare is a public private partnership.** Health insurance companies contract with our state Medicaid agency (AHCCCS) to offer kids robust health plans with benefits and networks designed with children in mind.

**Families share the cost.** KidsCare families are required to pay modest monthly premiums.

### What's at Stake?

Arizona restored KidsCare last September, more than 20,000 children are already enrolled and an estimated 10,000 more could sign up.

State statute requires KidsCare to be frozen, and possibly terminated, if Congress doesn't extend CHIP at the current funding level.

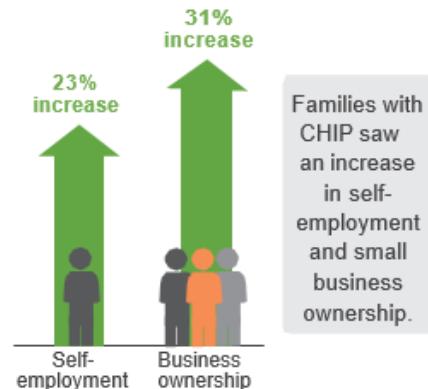
The bipartisan congressional advisement commission (MACPAC) recommended that CHIP be re-funded at current levels through fiscal year 2022. In fact, many states across the nation, including Arizona, are counting on renewed CHIP funding in their upcoming budgets.

### Why Keep KidsCare?

In these times of uncertainty for families, it's important to ensure that kids grow and thrive. KidsCare has helped reduce the number of uninsured children in Arizona to historic lows.

Harvard Business School Research shows that KidsCare spurs entrepreneurship and **allows parents to start small businesses knowing that their kids are covered.** Families with CHIP saw a 23 percent higher rate of self-employment and a 31 percent higher rate of ownership of incorporated businesses.

KidsCare keeps children healthy by including dental coverage, access to mental health services, and a robust network of pediatricians and specialists.



May 2017

For Questions, please contact Siman Qaasim | Children's Action Alliance | Tel: (602) 266-0707