

Arizona is the Only State Planning to Freeze KidsCare

KidsCare is Arizona's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), providing high quality, health coverage to children in working families. KidsCare was designed for families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid/AHCCCS, but struggle to afford private health insurance. All parents contribute affordable monthly premiums and can choose their own doctor and dentist.

Arizona froze enrollment in KidsCare in 2010 and became the only state without a functioning CHIP program until the legislature and Governor Ducey lifted the freeze in 2016 with broad bipartisan support.

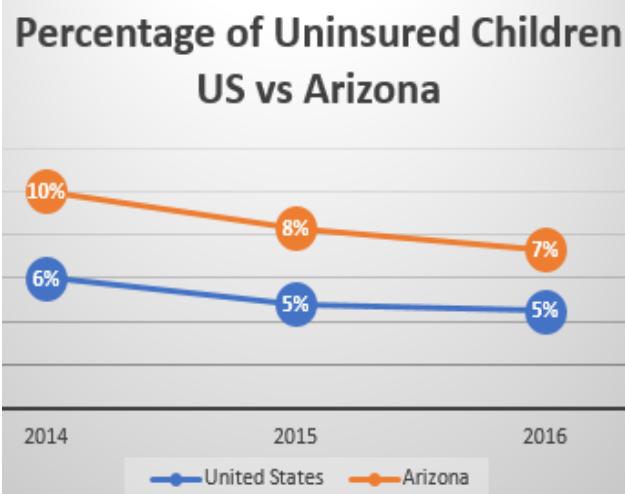
Today, more than 29,000 Arizona children are covered through KidsCare, but this coverage is once again at risk. State law has an automatic trigger to freeze KidsCare when the federal funding drops below 100%, which will happen on October 1, 2019. Most of these children will not have other options for health coverage and our rate of uninsured children will rise.

How Can We Keep KidsCare for Arizona Families?

The Governor and legislature can remove the automatic total freeze on enrollment.

- Federal funding changes to a 90% match in October 2019 and to a 79% match every year after that. The legislature can decide each year how much in state funds to invest in KidsCare.
- Enrollment will be capped based on the state appropriation, so KidsCare stays open and the legislature controls the state costs.
- According to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, state costs without an enrollment freeze will be only \$1.3 million more than costs with a freeze in fiscal year 2020.

Arizona is tied 5th in the nation for highest rate of uninsured children.



Why do Arizona Families Need KidsCare?

1. **KidsCare improves the health and lives of thousands of Arizona Kids.**
Parents can take their child to see a doctor or a dentist and get the healthcare they need to learn and grow up healthy, such as check-ups, immunizations, eye glasses, and asthma medication.
2. **KidsCare covers many children with complex health needs.**
Families of children with special healthcare needs, such as a congenital heart condition or autism, face overwhelming costs and barriers.
3. **KidsCare prevents the need for foster care and helps foster children transitioning back home.**
KidsCare provides families access to key behavioral health services that keep children safe and families together.
4. **KidsCare makes economic sense.** Research from the Harvard Business School finds that families with CHIP coverage had a 23% higher rate of self-employment and a 31% higher rate of ownership of incorporated businesses. Researchers at ASU found that uninsured children do not get as much regular medical care, resulting in costly emergency room use.