

Access to Healthcare Healthy Families for Florida's Future

Florida's United Ways urge the 2015 Florida Legislature to provide access healthcare for all Floridians.

BACKGROUND:

Good health is fundamental to a child's ability to succeed in school and to adults' ability to provide for their families, contribute to society, and live a full life. . Ensuring people have the opportunity to achieve optimal health is core to United Way's mission and community focus

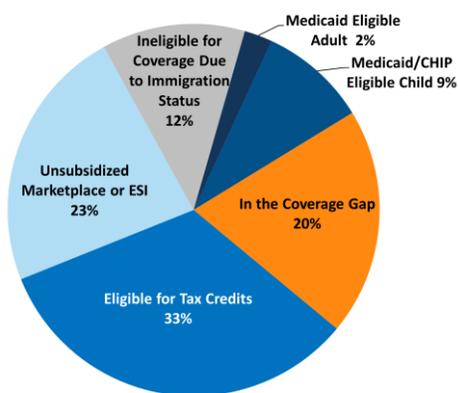
Access to affordable healthcare is an essential building block to a productive life. Increasing access to affordable health coverage for all Floridians will improve educational outcomes, result in a healthier and more productive workforce, and prevent Floridians from paying hidden taxes through increased healthcare costs.

In 2013, 1-in-five Floridians did not have health insurance coverage. Many were unable to afford health care and forced to use emergency rooms for primary care. According to the Florida Hospital Association, in 2013 the cost of providing uncompensated care for more than 3.9 million Floridians without health care coverage was over \$2.8 billion. This cost is passed on to taxpayers, consumers and health insurance providers, creating a hidden tax to Florida individuals and businesses in the form of increased health insurance rates.

Florida KidCare is the state's health insurance program for uninsured children in families with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. However, approximately 20,000 immigrant children who are lawfully residing in Florida must wait five years before they become eligible for KidCare. The cost to the state for providing coverage for these children is estimated to be \$14 million.

Figure 2

Eligibility for Coverage as of 2014 Among Currently Uninsured Floridians



Total = 3.9 Million Uninsured Nonelderly Floridians

Notes: Shares may not sum to 100% due to rounding. People who have an affordable offer of coverage through their employer or other source of public coverage (such as Medicare or CHAMPUS) are ineligible for tax credits. Unauthorized immigrants are

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

Population Survey.



PROPOSED CHANGES

Expand access to affordable comprehensive healthcare coverage for all Florida residents. United Way urges the 2015 Florida Legislature to stimulate economic activity, support a productive workforce, and remove hidden health care taxes by adopting measures that will expand access to healthcare for all Floridians.

Eliminate the KidCare five year waiting eligibility requirement for children of legal immigrants. United Way supports targeting \$14 million to provide approximately 20,000 immigrant children access to KidCare. Doing so will allow those children to have better quality of lives, improved educational outcomes and fewer expensive health-related problems in the future.

For additional information, please contact
The United Way of Florida at: (850) 488-8276.

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED