



## Does Your Child Have Insurance?

### Immigration Issues Regarding Florida KidCare

#### Non-Citizens' Eligibility for Florida KidCare

Many uninsured non-citizen children may be eligible for Florida KidCare health insurance if they meet certain income guidelines and other eligibility criteria.

Eligibility is based on household size and family income. If your child is eligible for Children's Medicaid, the child will be enrolled in Medicaid instead of one of the other KidCare programs.

#### Non-citizen children who may be eligible include:

- **Amerasians:** Certain people born in Vietnam between 1962 and 1976 whose father was a U.S. citizen, as well as their family members (spouses, children, parents, or guardians).
- **Asylees:** Individuals of any nationality granted asylum in the United States because they have experienced persecution or have a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.
- **Cuban/Haitian Entrants:** As defined in Section 501, (e) (1), of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, Cuban or Haitian nationals granted parole status as a Cuban/Haitian entrant, regardless of the status of the individual at the time of assistance, and nationals of Cuba or Haiti who have a pending application for asylum or are the subject of removal

proceedings (including those with an indefinite stay of deportation or deportation withheld).

- **Legal Permanent Residents (LPR)** who (1) previously held status as refugees, Amerasians, asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, or victims of trafficking, or (2) have held their LPR in the United States for five years or longer. LPR's are those persons who have been allowed to live permanently in the United States.
- **Certified Victims of Trafficking:** Persons that were forced into involuntary servitude, the commercial sex trade, debt bondage or peonage through force, fraud, or coercion who have been documented by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR); their accompanying family members granted T-visas may also be documented by ORR.
- **Refugees:** Individuals of any nationality who have been admitted to the United States as a refugee because they have experienced persecution or have a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

### Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

**What services are covered?** Some of the services Florida KidCare covers are: doctor visits, check-ups, immunization shots, hospital stays, surgery, prescriptions, emergencies, vision and hearing, dental and mental health services.

**How do I apply for Florida KidCare?** Call 1-888-540-KIDS (5437) to request an application, or visit [www.floridakidcare.org](http://www.floridakidcare.org) to print an application, or apply directly online. Before applying, first read the application instructions and if you have any questions regarding the application contact Florida



KidCare at 1-888-540-5437. Once the instructions have been read, complete the Florida KidCare application. After the application has been completed, make sure to sign it and include a copy of any additional supporting documents. After putting the application packet in an envelope, make sure to add correct postage and mail the documents to: Florida KidCare, P.O. Box 980, Tallahassee, FL, 32302-0980. If applying online, an electronic signature will be required to complete the application process and you will receive a list of additional papers needed to complete the application process. Remember, no interview is required.

**How much do I pay each month for coverage?**

Monthly premiums depend on your household's size and income. Most families pay \$15 or \$20 a month, or nothing at all. If you need to pay more, Florida KidCare will let you know. You may have to pay small co-payments for some services. There is no cost for Medicaid.

**Is a parent's immigration status considered? NO.**

The Florida KidCare application does not ask about the immigration status of the parents, or anyone who is not applying for coverage.

**If my child is in Florida KidCare, will that harm my family's ability to adjust our immigration status through the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services? NO.**

Federal regulations clearly state that health care and other critical services cannot be used to deny individuals admission to the U.S., to bar legal permanent residents status, or as a basis for deportation. The state of Florida does not provide any information to the Bureau about people applying for Florida KidCare or medical benefits. Remember, only the immigration status of the child—not the parent—is considered for Florida KidCare eligibility.

**Is my Social Security number (SSN) required?**

NO. A parent's social security number is not required; however, Florida KidCare may continue to

ask for your Social Security number to verify income and for use in other data matches. Inability to give a Social Security number will not affect your child's eligibility for Florida KidCare. A 1997 federal decision requires Social Security numbers to be handled confidentially.

**Is my child's Social Security number required?**

If you have a Social Security number (SSN) for your child, write it on the application. SSNs are used to do computer matches with other agencies. If your child does not have a SSN, write the date you applied for or tried to apply for a SSN on the application.

**How do I apply for a Social Security number for my child?**

If your child is not eligible for a Social Security number or you tried to get one, write the date that you applied for a Social Security number on the "Date SSN applied for" line. To apply for a SSN for your child, call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213. If you have access to the Internet, go to [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) for help applying for an SSN. When you receive a Social Security number for your child, call 1-800-821-5437, to let Florida KidCare know the number.

If your child is not eligible for a SSN but IS potentially eligible for Medicaid, and only needs a Social Security number to be approved, the Social Security Administration will give your child a number so that he or she can get health insurance. Remember, when you receive a SSN for your child, call 1-800-821-5437, to let Florida KidCare know the number.

**If I enroll my child in Florida KidCare, can I later be asked or told to pay back the money?**

Not if your child was eligible to receive the benefits. Neither the state of Florida nor the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services can require you to repay a benefit that is lawfully received. If your child is provided Medicaid in error, you may have to return the monies paid on your child's behalf.



**What documents do I need for my non-citizen child to apply for Florida KidCare?** If your child is not a U.S. citizen, make a copy of the front and back sides of any of the following papers you have for each child you are applying for Florida KidCare and attach the copies to the application. If you are applying online, once you have completed your application, you will see a screen that lists the papers you need to send to Florida KidCare to complete your application. Simply follow the Florida KidCare instructions on sending additional paperwork.

- Form I 551 (Green card, Permanent Resident or Resident Alien Card)
- Form I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record)
- Form I-688B or Form I-766 (Work Authorization Card)
- Passport or Laissez-Passer, including the bearer's name and picture, stamped by DHS showing immigration status or immigrant visa
- Form I-571 (Travel Authorization)
- Notice of INS receipt of Form I-589 (Asylum Application), if Cuban or Haitian
- Other documentation of status, such as a letter from USCIS or the Department of Homeland Security, immigration judge or Board of Immigration Appeals judge
- Letter of eligibility from the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

You also will need to provide copies of income documents with your paper application. The Florida KidCare application instructions explain the income documentation requirements. Always send *copies* – do not send original documents. Be sure the copies are clear and readable.

**I applied for Florida KidCare, now what?** An application is valid for 120 days after Florida KidCare receives it. After receipt, Florida KidCare will notify you of your child's application status.

**What should I do if my child needs medical attention while I am waiting to hear from Florida KidCare?** Take your child in for medical treatment; but you may be responsible for the cost of your child's care. You can go to your local county health department or community health clinic for free or low cost health care. If your child qualifies for Medicaid and you have any unpaid medical bills for your children from the three months before you applied, Medicaid may be able to pay them for you.

**I called the toll-free Florida KidCare number but the recording does not give my language as an option—what do I do?** The toll-free number, 1-888-540-5437, has interpreters for most languages. When you call, press 1 for English. When the operator answers, say what language you speak or the name of your native country. Stay on the line while you are connected with an interpreter.

**I don't understand the letters I am getting from Florida KidCare. What do I do?** Call the local refugee agency that provided you services or helped you resettle or call 1-800-821-5437. This is a free call.

**I received a letter that says my child is a non-qualified non-citizen, but we are refugees/asylees. What do I do?** It could be that Florida KidCare does not have your child's INS documents. Call Florida KidCare at 1-800-821-5437 to see what they have on file about your child. Remember they have interpreters. You can also contact the local refugee agency that provided you services or helped you resettle.

**Who will provide medical care for my child?** Florida KidCare uses selected doctors, dentists, hospitals, therapists, and health plans to provide



quality services. In some areas in Florida, you may be able to choose from more than one health plan. Once enrolled, you will receive a list of doctors from the health plan in your area.

**My child has been approved for Florida KidCare, now what?** You will receive a letter with your child's start date. Once your child's insurance has become effective, call the health plan office to tell them the name of the doctor you have chosen as your child's primary doctor. As soon as your child is assigned to a primary doctor, call the doctor's office to make an appointment to meet your child's doctor and schedule a "well-child" visit.

**What is this plastic card I received?** This is the insurance card. Carry it with you at all times and show it to the doctor or pharmacist when you need services.

**What is a "primary care doctor"?** This is a doctor who will work with you to manage all of your child's health care. If your child sees the same doctor for each visit, both you and the doctor will know better how to care for your child's needs.

**Can I ask the doctor questions?** Yes, do not be afraid to ask the doctor questions. Make sure you understand everything that the doctor has told you. If you forget to ask a question, call the doctor or nurse when you get home, or talk it over with him or her the next time you are in for a visit. You have the right to ask about your child's growth and development, changes in behavior, or anything else you want to know. Interpreter services may be available to you. You can also contact the local refugee agency that provided you services or helped you resettle.

**Can I change doctors?** Possibly, you will need to contact your plan for approval. Call 1-800-821-KIDS (5437) if you have any questions.

# Apply now! It's easier!

For more information, call  
toll free: 1-888-540-5437

or visit [www.floridakidcare.org](http://www.floridakidcare.org)

TTY 1-877-316-8748

*Sponsored by Refugee Services and the state of Florida, Department of Children and Families.*