

ARKids First Expansion to 250% FPL

FACTSHEET

Status:

- 9% of children under age 19 in Arkansas remain uninsured (69,000).

Program:

Expansion will increase eligibility for ARKids First from 200% to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (8,000 additional children eligible, up to 20,000 new enrollees due to outreach and decreased stigma).

Impact:

- Increase health insurance among children and provide a health insurance option to 8,000 additional uninsured children.
- Ensure more children have access to preventative health.
- Keep families economically stable, as employers drop health insurance and/or pass greater portions of family premium costs onto their workforce.

How it Works:

- ARKids First provides health insurance to children who otherwise might not get medical care.
- The program offers two coverage options:
 - ARKids A provides free care for a range of screenings and treatment services (medical, dental, vision, hearing and mental health services).
 - ARKids B, for families with slightly higher incomes, provides most of the same benefits and requires a small co-payment for some services, including \$10 for routine visits and \$5 for prescriptions.
- ARKids First is administered by the Arkansas Department of Human Services (ADHS) and funded by state and federal Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) dollars.
- For every \$1 Arkansas spends, the federal government provides as much as \$4 or more.
- To raise the family income limit from 200 % of the FPL to 250%, Arkansas would need to spend approximately \$6 million annually to access more than \$20 million in federal dollars.

Administration/Oversight: ADHS will allocate funds to expand the existing ARKids First program to additional children. Funds to support these services will be appropriated by the Arkansas General Assembly to Arkansas Medicaid. Arkansas Medicaid is conducted as a partnership between the state and federal government. The program is overseen by the Arkansas Department of Human Services and the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

