



# Health Facts:

Helping you stay informed about  
our changing health care system

## Every Child in North Carolina Deserves An Affordable Health Plan

- **Your Child May Be Eligible for Free or Low-Cost Health Insurance Options**
- **Help Make an Affordable Health Insurance Plan Available to Every Child in North Carolina**

**Children need to see the doctor.** Whether it's for immunization, a well-baby checkup, or a sore throat, all children should be able to get medical care. Unfortunately, for the over 200,000 North Carolina children who don't have health insurance, seeing a doctor is not an easy task. Many of these kids may already qualify for affordable health plans. Many others could qualify if North Carolina made a commitment that no child should be without coverage. Join us. Learn what options are available already and help us make North Carolina a state where every parent can afford a health plan for their child. **If you are an immigrant family, please ask us for our brochure on immigrant access to health care.**

### Health Check√ (Medicaid) or NC Health Choice

Your child may qualify for **Health Check√ (Medicaid) or NC Health Choice**, free or low-cost health insurance for children under the age of 19 (or 21 in some cases) if your family's monthly income meets the established guidelines.

#### What are the family income limits?

Family Size	Monthly Income Before Taxes* and Other Payroll Deductions
2 people	\$2,334
3 people	\$2,934
4 people	\$3,534
5 people or more	Add \$600 for each additional family member
*Children of families who earn more may qualify if they have daycare, work-related or child support expenses	

#### What type of health care will my child receive under this health insurance?

well-child & sick visits	medication	dental visits
immunizations (shots)	hospital care	lab tests
counseling	therapies	surgeries

Children with special needs may be entitled to additional benefits. Call the Children with Special Health Care Needs hotline at 1-800-737-3028.

#### How do I show proof of income?

Provide current pay stubs or a business record (income & expenses) if you are self-employed.

#### Can I apply for my grandchild?

A custodial parent, grandparent, family member or adult with whom the child lives and who is responsible for the care of the child may apply.

#### How long does it usually take to process the application?

The process can take up to 45 days. It is important to provide all requested, up-to-date information and to sign and date the application.

**Is my child covered while I wait to hear?**

If your application is approved, your child may be covered at least from the first day of the month in which you apply.

**How will I know if the application is accepted?**

You will receive a benefits card and information booklet.

**How much does it cost?**

Under NC Health Choice, your family's income determines the fees you may have to pay. Once-a-year enrollment fees are either \$50 (one child) or \$100 (2 or more). If you pay a yearly enrollment fee, you will have small co-payments for some visits to healthcare providers, either \$5 or \$10. There are *no* co-payments for well-child care visits, immunizations (shots), or routine dental visits.

**Where do I take my child for medical or dental care?**

You may contact the provider's office and ask if they accept Health CheckV (Medicaid) or NC Health Choice, or you may call the NC Family Health Resource Line (1-800-367-2229/TTY: 1-800-976-1922) for assistance.

**How do I maintain coverage?**

You *must* re-enroll. Make sure you notify your local department of social services if your address changes. Approximately 10 months after you have been on the program, you will receive a re-enrollment package. It is very important to provide all the requested information, to sign and date and return the package promptly.

**Where do I call to find out more information or to get an application?**

For more information or to get an application, in English or Spanish, contact your local department of social services or health department or call the NC Family Health Resource Line (1-800-367-2229/TTY: 1-800-976-1922). Applications are also available online at [www.NCHealthyStart.org](http://www.NCHealthyStart.org). To locate your county department of social services office, call CARELINE (1-800-662-7030/TTY: 1-877-452-2514).

**All Children Deserve Affordable Health Care**

All children deserve health coverage that gives them access to quality, affordable care. After applying for your child, make sure you tell a friend. Together we can work toward this important goal. Join the Health Access Coalition and get involved in health care reform. To find out more about how you can help, please visit: [www.nchac.org](http://www.nchac.org).

**How can I do my part?**

- Sign up for the Health Access Coalition's action alert newsletter.
- Find out your state legislators' names (at least one Representative and one Senator) in the NC General Assembly. You can call (919)733-4111 or visit: [www.ncga.state.nc.us](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us) and get their contact information.

**How can I work with others in my community?**

- Form a group to discuss your stories and other health issues and determine what help and what action is needed.
- Members of your group can either call individually or plan to visit the legislators as a group, either at the General Assembly when in session or in their home offices when they are not in session or over the weekend.
- Your group can decide what the next steps are based on responses from speaking with the legislators. A next step could be planning a public meeting and inviting the legislators to attend.

**Is there anything else I can do?**

- Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper
- Call in to a talk radio show
- Talk to a legislator you see at a public event