

CHILDREN'S HEALTH COVERAGE AMENDMENTS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Luz Escamilla

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates a program to increase health insurance coverage for children and directs the Department of Health to expand eligibility for children's Medicaid and CHIP.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates the Children's Coverage Outreach Pilot Program;
- ▶ describes the Children's Coverage Outreach Pilot Program, which includes:
 - a grant program to deliver targeted outreach and direct application assistance;
 - a media outreach campaign to raise awareness of options for health insurance coverage that are available to Utah children; and
 - direct enrollment assistance to certain populations;
- ▶ creates the Children's Coverage Outreach Pilot Program Restricted Account; and
- ▶ directs the Department of Health to expand eligibility for the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program to include children who do not currently qualify.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None



Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

26-18-27, Utah Code Annotated 1953**26-18-28**, Utah Code Annotated 1953**26-40-117**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*Section 1. Section **26-18-27** is enacted to read:**26-18-27. Children's Coverage Outreach Pilot Program.**(1) As used in this section:(a) "Account" means the Children's Coverage Outreach Pilot Program Restricted Account created in Subsection (7).(b) "Program" means the Children's Coverage Outreach Pilot Program created in Subsection (2)(a).(c) "Social impact services" means service delivered in a manner that facilitates a positive result or outcome for improving the quality of life of individuals or communities in a county by:(i) promoting economic opportunity and innovation;(ii) facilitating collaboration between public and private entities;(iii) improving human health and well-being;(iv) providing low-income or undeserved individuals or communities with beneficial products or services;(v) promoting child and youth development;(vi) targeting specialized populations with social innovation, including populations impacted by:(A) homelessness; or(B) intergenerational poverty; or(vii) conferring any other particular benefit on the community to create a positive impact.(2) (a) There is created the Children's Coverage Outreach Pilot Program within the Department of Health.

(b) The purpose of the program is to:

(i) make affordable, accessible health care available to all children in Utah;

(ii) maximize the enrollment and retention of eligible children in the Medicaid program and the Utah Children's Health Insurance Program created in Title 26, Chapter 40, Utah Children's Health Insurance Act;

(iii) perform outreach through schools, churches, and other community organizations that deliver social impact services to increase the number of children in the state who are covered by health insurance;

(iv) increase coverage of children in Utah whose family income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level as defined in Section [26-18-411](#);

(v) create a model that ensures outreach to, enrollment of, and participation of diverse communities with established partnerships and grantees with specific attention to the effect of social determinants of health;

(vi) address the impact of social determinants of health through social impact services in outreach and delivery of health care services to all Utah children;

(vii) administer the grant program described in Subsection (4);

(viii) conduct the media outreach campaign described in Subsection (5); and

(ix) provide enrollment assistance as described in Subsection (6).

(3) The department shall convene a working group that consists of individuals with experience in delivering social impact services and conducting outreach to the individuals described in Subsection (2) to create and carry out the program.

(4) To maximize the enrollment and retention of eligible children in the Medicaid program and the Utah Children's Health Insurance Program created in Title 26, Chapter 40, Utah Children's Health Insurance Act, the department shall collaborate with the working group described in Subsection (3) to develop and administer a grant program to provide funding to organizations and community based groups to deliver culturally specific and targeted outreach and direct application assistance to:

(a) members of racial, ethnic, and language minority communities;

(b) children living in geographic isolation; and

(c) children and family members with additional barriers to accessing health care, including:

90 (i) cognitive, mental health, or sensory disorders;

91 (ii) physical disabilities;

92 (iii) chemical dependency; and

93 (iv) children experiencing homelessness.

94 (5) The department shall develop a media outreach campaign in collaboration with:

95 (a) the working group created in Subsection (3); and

96 (b) the recipients of grant funds under Subsection (4).

97 (6) The department shall provide enrollment assistance to individuals through:

98 (a) school based settings;

99 (b) safety net clinics; and

100 (c) community health workers.

101 (7) (a) There is created a restricted account within the General Fund known as the
102 "Children's Coverage Outreach Pilot Program Restricted Account."

103 (b) The restricted account consists of:

104 (i) money appropriated to the restricted account by the Legislature;

105 (ii) private donations; and

106 (iii) all income and interest derived from the deposit and investment of money in the
107 account.

108 (c) Subject to legislative appropriations, money in the restricted account may be used
109 to fund activities related to the program created in this chapter.

110 (d) (i) Except as provided in Subsection (7)(d)(ii), the program shall be funded solely
111 with money from the account.

112 (ii) The department shall maximize available funding for emergency Medicaid services
113 for children before using funds from the account.

114 Section 2. Section **26-18-28** is enacted to read:

115 **26-18-28. Presumptive eligibility for children -- Expansion of coverage to all Utah**
116 **children.**

117 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the department shall permit an
118 enrollee who is 18 years old or younger to remain in the Medicaid program for a 12-month
119 certification period, as that certification period is defined by the department.

120 (2) The department shall, in accordance with this section, expand eligibility for the

Medicaid program to individuals who:

(a) are 18 years old or younger;

(b) are otherwise ineligible for federal financial participation; and

(c) meet the income requirement for coverage under the Medicaid program.

(3) The department shall expand eligibility for Medicaid under Subsection (2) on the earlier of:

(a) when the director determines that systems have been programmed for implementation of this section; and

(b) July 1, 2022.

(4) (a) An individual who is eligible for coverage under the Medicaid program under Subsection (2) shall be eligible for the full scope of Medicaid benefits that the individual would otherwise receive if the individual was otherwise eligible for federal financial participation.

(b) To the extent permitted by federal law, an individual who is eligible under Subsection (2) shall be required to enroll in a Medicaid accountable care organization delivery system, where implemented.

(c) (i) The department shall:

(A) seek any necessary federal approvals to obtain federal financial participation in implementing this section; and

(B) maximize federal financial participation in implementing this section.

(ii) If federal financial participation is not available to pay a portion of the cost of providing coverage under this section, the cost shall be paid solely with state funds.

(5) Section 26-18-18 does not apply to an expansion of Medicaid under this section.

Section 3. Section 26-40-117 is enacted to read:

26-40-117. Expansion of coverage to all Utah children.

(1) Notwithstanding Subsection 26-40-105(1), the department shall, in accordance with this section, expand eligibility for the program to individuals who:

(a) are 18 years old or younger;

(b) are otherwise ineligible for federal financial participation; and

(c) meet the income requirement for coverage under the program.

(2) The department shall expand eligibility for the program under Subsection (1) on the earlier of:

152 (a) when the director determines that systems have been programmed for
153 implementation of this section; and
154 (b) July 1, 2022.
155 (3) (a) An individual who is eligible for coverage under the program under Subsection
156 (1) shall be eligible for the full scope of benefits that the individual would otherwise receive if
157 the individual was otherwise eligible for federal financial participation.
158 (b) (i) The department shall:
159 (A) seek any necessary federal approvals to obtain federal financial participation in
160 implementing this section; and
161 (B) maximize federal financial participation in implementing this section.
162 (ii) If federal financial participation is not available to pay a portion of the cost of
163 providing coverage under this section, the cost shall be paid solely with state funds.