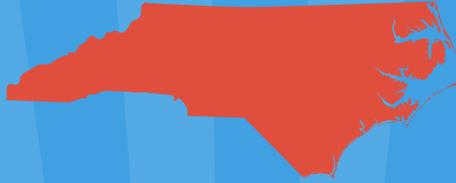


Attn: Health Care Staffer

GIVE OUR KIDS A WINNING HAND



NC HEALTH CHOICE ENSURES THAT
WE ALWAYS GIVE NC KIDS
A WINNING HAND OF LIFELONG HEALTH!



Dear Leader,

NC Health Choice ensures that vulnerable NC children have the opportunity to lead healthy lives. NC Health Choice is a result of efforts by Republicans and Democrats to pass the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 1997; they agreed health insurance for vulnerable children was an important low-cost, sound investment in our children’s health and future – and they were right! The uninsured rate of children in NC is now at a record low of 4%!

Thanks to NC Health Choice – which received \$434.9 million in federal funds in 2016 – more than 256,000 children are able to receive necessary care at an affordable price, and their parents can breathe a little easier knowing that their child’s broken arm or sore throat won’t lead to insurmountable debt.

This dramatic increase in kids’ coverage has a tangible, positive impact on our state’s future health and education. Kids with health insurance are less likely to get sick and more likely to get preventative care, such as immunizations and dental care, which keeps them healthy. They can also receive timely, affordable care when they are sick, injured, or suffer from a chronic illness – all of which saves money in the long run. For these reasons and more, CHIP has earned the support of 83% of Americans because it is a smart investment in our kids’ future.

Moms know that health coverage is critical for children’s development. The stories in this booklet provide a glimpse into the ways in which NC Health Choice has improved the lives of the more than 256,000 children it covers. These personal stories reflect the importance of NC Health Choice.

Please read these heartfelt stories to learn more about how NC Health Choice is critical to the lives of children and families in North Carolina.

Thank you for your work on behalf of North Carolina’s families!



Sources: https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/fed_advocacy_chip_north_carolina.pdf



MORE THAN 256,000 KIDS IN NORTH CAROLINA RELY ON HEALTH CHOICE FOR CHILDREN FOR THEIR HEALTH COVERAGE

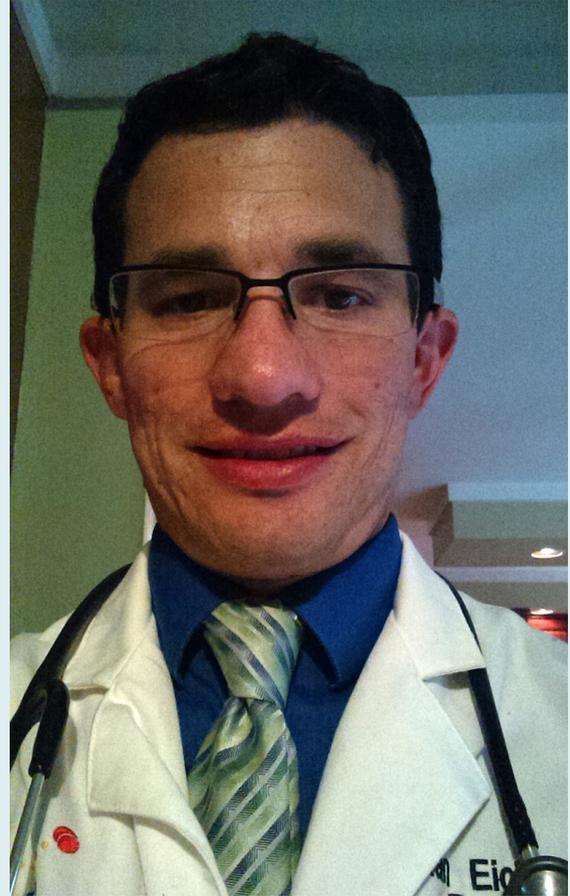
https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/fed_advocacy_chip_north_carolina.pdf



Melessa, Charlotte, NC

After 5 years with the same company I thought my life was stable until an economic slide took my job overseas and left me without any benefits. My son was 5 at the time and I was pregnant with another. My son woke me up one night unable to breathe... the scariest minutes of my life proved that my son would need on going medication. Luckily the hospital had to see us but the follow up and prescriptions would surly make it hard to continue day to day life, paying bills and still able to support my children.

The hospital referred me to Medicaid who accepted my son into the NC Health Choice where I pay a once a year reduced fee and low copays. This eased the burden and allowed my son to continue to have a healthy life. Even though I am working again the coverage for my family would take 1/4 of my paycheck each paycheck. That is not something I can afford with living expenses and gas. Without the NC Health Choice program I know we would not be able to survive.



Dr. Brian Eichner Pediatrician, Raleigh, NC

CHIP is important for our pediatric patients given our sworn responsibility to provide adequate healthcare to all human children and taking CHIP away can have detrimental societal and economic effects as well, making it a lose-lose proposition. If our vulnerable children lose insurance, their parents will, in the end, seek emergency care, but the children will not receive the preventative care that keeps them out of the ER and in school learning the tools they need to become successful adults.

I have many patients who count on CHIP for their medical care and without it, they would struggle to stay healthy. As just one example, my patients with asthma would not receive their steroid inhalers that prevent asthma exacerbations and instead they will only seek costly, less effective emergency care, complete with missed school days

THROUGH CHIP, IN 2016, NORTH CAROLINA RECEIVED

\$434.9 MILLION

IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE HEALTH CHOICE FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/fed_advocacy_chip_north_carolina.pdf



Afisa, Raleigh, NC

The kids are able to get well-child check ups, and I have two asthmatics in my home who need equipment and regular inhalers, as well as prescriptions. I am married to a veteran and only he is qualified to receive his insurance. It's very expensive for a family of six with only one low-income job that offers no insurance to it's employees. So yes, we benefit from this program.

Delores, Ellenboro, NC

I know personally that if this was not provided for my children I really would not know what to do. I could not afford insurance for my children without struggling and worrying how I would make it to the next paycheck. If the government gets rid of this there will be millions of children who will not the help they need, so do the right thing and let it alone!

Kathleen, Bat Cave, NC

I was on NC Health Choice until I came of age, and my younger sister (16 yrs) is still on it. Without it, neither of us would have seen a doctor growing up. Healthcare just isn't affordable for our family because our mother is too sick to work regularly and our father passed when we were young.

Angela, Elkin, NC

My oldest son was born with a cleft lip and palette. If it weren't for the help of NC Health Choice covering the cost of his surgeries, he would not have been able to live a normal life. My middle son has ADHD and NC Health Choice covers his quarterly visits to the doctor and his medicine.

Before he was diagnosed and medicated, he couldn't even concentrate long enough to learn how to really read. It was just a bunch of words he was reading, not knowing from word to word how to put the story together in his mind. In many ways this program saved their lives.

Lisa, Greensboro, NC

As a self-employed mom, I had to purchase my own health insurance. I am happy to have the opportunity to get insurance, but I could not afford to include my children on the plan.

Thanks to NC Health Choice, my children can see a doctor and dentist regularly as well as get the eye glasses they need to succeed in school. Also, although I am not one to rush to the doctor for every sniffle, it is comforting to know that my children are covered if an accident occurred.



Eliana M. Perrin, MD, M.P.H.

I believe in CHIP because of all of the wonderful things it does for children. This has been a bipartisan supported effort to pay for eligible children and ensure quality standards. I don't even want to think about what children's health without CHIP would look like.



Dr. Gabriela Maradiaga Panayotti
Pediatrician, Durham, NC

My name is Gabriela Maradiaga Panayotti, and I am a pediatrician in Durham, NC. Nearly 9 million children around the country are enrolled in CHIP. Our children deserve the best, and that includes access to quality health care services.

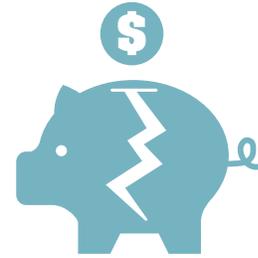
Rhonda, Durham, NC

My children have benefited from CHIP since 2006. Without the help of CHIP my four children would have been uninsured and without access to regular healthcare. We are a single income family and insurance premiums offered by my husband's employers have been unaffordable. CHIP has helped us provide our children with regular well-check physicals, sick visits, and medications while staying within our budget with low co-pays.

Moira, Graham, NC

I was a public school teacher in North Carolina for ten years before I began teaching in higher education. During that time, the state salary scale was frozen. I made \$29,000 until I was able, through going to school at night, to get my Masters and get a pay raise to \$32,000.

During that time, my son was on NC Health Choice. To add him onto my state health insurance would have been \$3,000 per year. Without Health Choice, I would have struggled even more financially.



IF CONGRESS DOESN'T EXTEND CHIP, NORTH CAROLINA EXPECTS TO RUN OUT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTH CHOICE FOR CHILDREN DURING THE 1ST QUARTER OF 2018

Source: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/fact-sheet/current-status-of-state-planning-for-the-future-of-chip/>

Robyn, Cary, NC

We live paycheck to paycheck. My first-grade child has struggled in school. We have had to go to occupational therapists and see our pediatrician, sometimes once a week, to evaluate for things and discuss concerns.

Without NC Health Choice, I would not be able to give my child the help they need to succeed in school and in life. There's no way I would have been able to make all of these appointments and get this kind of help without it. I am so grateful.

Sonya, Charlotte, NC

My grandchildren receive their medical care because of CHIP. With asthma and severe allergies both children take medication daily. Only because of CHIP are they able to have access to their medicines and doctor appointments.

Janera, Raleigh, NC

CHIP has helped to make sure that my daughter has access to affordable care. Without it, I wouldn't be able to afford things like routine doctors visits.



Dr. Sarah Armstrong
Pediatrician, Durham, NC

As a pediatrician in Durham, NC, I strongly attest that CHIP plays a critical role in the health of children covered by CHIP.

In addition, by creating a healthier environment for the now historic 95% of children in our country who are insured, CHIP plays a critical role in the health of ALL children. CHIP has bipartisan support, and it is the right thing to do.

Dr. Jennifer M. Lawson
Pediatrician, Durham, NC

There is a growing body of knowledge supporting what pediatricians have seen for years, that is, the adverse effects of toxic stress on the health and well-being of children. Children are vulnerable, simply as children; living in poverty exacerbates this vulnerability.

It is our responsibility as a society to provide care for our children and to offer them an opportunity to thrive and to flourish. CHIP can help support this care for those in need, allowing these children access to the medical care they deserve, helping them to grow and to achieve their potential.



Julie M. Linton, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Speaking as a pediatrician – and as a mother – not on behalf of my institution.

Each day, I care for children in my community who benefit from CHIP. CHIP offers consistent access to high quality care for children like Eli*, a boy with asthma who relies on daily medication to be able to play football for his school team; Maria*, a girl with ADHD who can learn and grow to reach her potential with the benefit of medication and mental health support services; and Jonah*, a newborn with heart disease who will require surgery and ongoing subspecialty care to grow and develop into a successful North Carolinian. We cannot cut CHIP without directly harming children and families. Instead, we must collectively invest in a culture of health to protect our future and build our collective prosperity.

**The names of children have been changed to protect their confidentiality.*

