

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

May 18, 2016

**KidsCare Accepting Applications July 26
Coverage Effective September 1, 2016**

PHOENIX – Governor Doug Ducey signed SB 1457*, restoring KidsCare coverage to children in households between 133% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL). KidsCare is Arizona’s version of the federally created Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). KidsCare enrollment was frozen in January 2010, one of several measures taken to address the budget crisis during the Great Recession.

Applications for KidsCare will be accepted beginning July 26, 2016 for coverage that will begin September 1, 2016. Applications received before July 26 will be denied until the recently signed legislation becomes effective, which also allows time for needed changes within the State’s eligibility system, Health-e-Arizona Plus (HEAplus), in order to accept the KidsCare applications.

“We applaud the Legislature and Governor Ducey’s commitment to health care coverage for working families,” said AHCCCS Director Tom Betlach. “We are grateful to our partners at the Department of Economic Security (DES) who are ready to take applications and the AHCCCS contracted health plans that stand at the ready to meet the health care needs of children in the KidsCare program.”

“On behalf of the Arizona Department of Economic Security, I’d like to thank Governor Ducey and members of the Legislature for the restoration of KidsCare,” said DES Director Tim Jeffries. “This program will further the DES mission of helping Arizona’s most vulnerable. We look forward to working with our state agency colleagues at AHCCCS on the successful reimplementation of this program.”

Parents insuring their children in KidsCare pay a monthly premium depending on their household income. Monthly premiums can range from \$10 for one child in a household at the lower income range up to \$70 for multiple children in households at the upper income range. The annual family income for a household of four at 133% FPL is \$32,319 and at 200% FPL is \$48,600.

AHCCCS estimates approximately 30,000 Arizona children may enroll in KidsCare coverage. KidsCare offers the full array of AHCCCS benefits. Families will have their eligibility conducted by the Department of Economic Security as part of a holistic eligibility determination. Eligible children will receive their coverage through health plans contracted with the AHCCCS Administration.

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For more information, contact the AHCCCS press office at (602) 417-4534 or go to the AHCCCS website for information on the KidsCare program at:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/Members/GetCovered/Categories/KidsCare.html>.

To apply for KidsCare, on or after July 26, 2016, go to the HEAplus website at:

<https://www.healtharizonaplus.gov/Default/Default.aspx>.

***Erratum** in original release published May 17, 2016 gave bill number as SB 1475; the correct bill number is 1457.