



SOUTH CAROLINA FACT SHEET

AAFP on Children's Health Insurance Program

The AAFP promotes and supports a safe and nurturing environment for all children that includes access to comprehensive medical, dental and mental health care, psychological and legal security and does not discriminate on the basis of adoption, foster care, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Every family physician is trained to, and has provided, care for children. In 2016, more than 80% of family physicians reported providing care for adolescents, and 73% reported caring for infants and children. Close to one-third of family physicians also provide care for newborns and infants, and many deliver babies in their communities.¹ AAFP has a major stake in ensuring the viability of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid, which serves almost seven times as many poor and disabled children as CHIP. The AAFP urges Congress to enact a long-term funding extension of CHIP to keep both programs strong and foster stability to low income children and families.

South Carolina Family Medicine

- There are 1,825 AAFP members in South Carolina.²
- South Carolina has 10 family medicine residency programs.
- South Carolina has 79 medically underserved areas/populations.
- 5.7% of the residents in South Carolina live in a health professional shortage area.

Children's Health Insurance Program in South Carolina

- South Carolina operates a Medicaid expansion Children's Health Insurance Program called [Healthy Connections Kids](#).
- 714,260 children are covered by Medicaid and CHIP in South Carolina:
 - 81,574 children received CHIP-funded coverage
 - 632,686 received Medicaid-funded coverage³
- In 2015, there were 44,000 uninsured children in South Carolina.⁴
- CHIP in South Carolina covers children ages 0-18 from 107% - 208% of FPL.⁵
- Cost sharing is not associated with CHIP in South Carolina.⁶
- South Carolina is expected to exhaust federal CHIP funds by May 2018 if Congress does not reauthorize the program.⁷

¹ American Academy of Family Physicians Member Census, December 31, 2016. Retrieved from <http://www.aafp.org/about/the-aafp/family-medicine-facts/table-13.html>

² As of July 31, 2017.

³ Child Enrollment in CHIP and Medicaid by State, FY 2016. Retrieved from <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/EXHIBIT-31.-Child-Enrollment-in-CHIP-and-Medicaid-by-State-FY-2016.pdf>

⁴ Alker, Joan, Alisa Chester. (2016, October). *Children's Health Coverage Rate Now at Historic High of 95 Percent*. Retrieved from <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Kids-ACS-update-11-02-1.pdf>

⁵ CHIP Eligibility Levels (2016) and Enrollment (2015) by State. (2017, March). Retrieved from <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Table-1B-1-CHIP-Eligibility-Levels-2016-and-enrollment-fy-2015-by-State.pdf>

⁶ Brooks, Tricia, Karina Wagnerman. (2017, Jan). *Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility, Enrollment, Renewal, and Cost Sharing Policies as of January 2017: Findings from a 50-State Survey*. Retrieved from <http://files.kff.org/attachment/Report-Medicaid-and-CHIP-Eligibility-as-of-Jan-2017>

⁷ Federal CHIP Funding: When Will States Exhaust Allotments?. (2017, July). Retrieved from <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Federal-CHIP-Funding-When-Will-States-Exhaust-Allotments.pdf>

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Medicaid/Medicare Parity

- The increase in Medicaid payment to 100% of Medicare for primary care services improved access to care among family physicians taking Medicaid by 7.7%.⁸
- AAFP's [Core Principles of Medicaid](#) supports payment for primary care services that are at least equal to Medicare's payment rate.
- Acceptance of new Medicaid patients among AAFP members is at an all-time high of 69%.

Teaching Health Centers

- The AAFP supports [teaching health centers](#) (THCs) reauthorization legislation, [HR 3394](#) and [S 1754](#), the *Training the Next Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act of 2017*, as a critical program to increase the number of primary care physicians.
- The Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program also addresses the regional primary care physician shortage, particularly within rural and underserved communities.
- There are currently no teaching health centers in South Carolina, but the bill would allow new programs to apply for THCGME funding.
- Residents trained in THCs are well prepared for primary care practice in community settings, and data show that training in underserved communities increases the likelihood that these residents will choose to practice in similar settings upon graduation.⁹ In addition, graduates of THCs are more likely to work in safety net clinics than residents who did not train in these centers.¹⁰

National Health Service Corps

- The AAFP advocates for the reauthorization of funding for the [National Health Service Corps](#) (NHSC) which is vital to promoting access to family physicians in health professions shortage areas throughout the nation.
- In South Carolina, the National Health Service Corps supports nearly 149 full-time clinicians.
 - Of those, 135 are in the NHSC loan repayment program.
 - 105 of the South Carolina NHSC placements are in primary health care.¹¹
- The NHSC helps bring health care to those who need it most. Today, 10,400 NHSC members provide culturally competent care to more than 11 million people.¹²

⁸ Basseyn, Simon, Chris Colameco, Janet Weiner. (2015, January 21). *Bumped-up Medicaid Fees for Primary Care Linked to Improved Appointment Availability*. Retrieved from <https://ldi.upenn.edu/bumped-medicaid-fees-primary-care-linked-improved-appointment-availability>

⁹ Cashman, Suzanne, Warren Ferguson, Daniel Lasser, Judith Savageau. (2009). *Family Medicine Residency Characteristics Associated with Practice in a Health Professions Shortage Area*. Retrieved from <http://www.stfm.org/fmhub/fm2009/June/Warren405.pdf>

¹⁰ Bazemore, Andrew, Lars Peterson, Robert Phillips, Melanie Rafoul, Peter Wingrove. (2015, November 15). *Graduates of Teaching Health Centers are More Likely to Enter Practice in Primary Care Safety Net*. Retrieved from <http://www.aafp.org/afp/2015/1115/p868.html>

¹¹ *National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Current Provider FTE Summary by State Report*. Retrieved from <https://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/topics/nhsc.aspx>

¹² *About the NHSC*. Retrieved from <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/corpsexperience/aboutus/>