



## ***Fact Sheet***

### **ABOUT HEALTHY KIDS:**

#### ***History:***

- Established in 1990 by the Florida Legislature as a public-private initiative to improve access to comprehensive health insurance for the state's uninsured children.
- The founding of the program came about as a result of an article that was published in the March 31, 1988, New England Journal of Medicine by Steve A. Freedman, Ph.D., F.A.A.P., then-Director of the Institute for Child Health Policy at the University of Florida.
- One of three state programs grandfathered into the original Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) legislation in 1997, Healthy Kids was joined with two other existing state health care programs for children (Medicaid and the Children's Medical Services Network) and a new program (MediKids) to create Florida's KidCare program in 1998.

#### ***Governing body:***

- The Florida Healthy Kids Corporation is governed by a statutorily created Board of Directors.
- Chaired by the state's elected Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee and includes the other Florida KidCare partner agencies, provider organizations, the hospital association, county government and child advocacy representatives.

#### ***Insurance Coverage:***

- Florida Healthy Kids is the Florida KidCare partner that covers children ages 5-18.
- Most families pay \$15 or \$20, others may pay more based on income
- Benefits include dental visits, vision checks, well-child visits, shots, hospital stays and much more; some services have small co-payments.
- Coverage provided through licensed health and dental plans.

#### ***Innovating Ideas:***

- Selected by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as the National Program Office for the Foundation's Healthy Kids Replication Initiative from 1996 – 2003.
- Winner of the 1996 Innovations in American Government Award by the Ford Foundation and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.
- Recognized as one of 15 preeminent past winners at the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Innovations in American Government Awards in 2002.

#### ***Enrollment:***

- Enrollment is open 24/7. Apply online at [www.floridakidcare.org](http://www.floridakidcare.org) or call 1-888-540-KIDS.
- As of Aug. 1, 2010, there were 203,924 Florida children covered by Healthy Kids.

To learn more about Healthy Kids, visit our website at [www.healthykids.org](http://www.healthykids.org)