

Innovative Programs for Children

Washington State
Senator Karen Keiser

Milestones in Children's Coverage

1965	Medicaid enacted – covered certain low-income children
1991	WA starts state-funded program for <u>non-citizen</u> children 0-18 to 100% FPL
1994	Expands Medicaid to cover children ages 0-18 to 200% FPL
2000	SCHIP program for children 200% - 250% FPL
2007	SB 5093 expands coverage to <u>all</u> children in families earning less than 250% FPL
2008	Children's programs consolidated into a one program, re-branded " <i>Apple Health for Kids</i> "
2009	SCHIP expanded to 300% FPL

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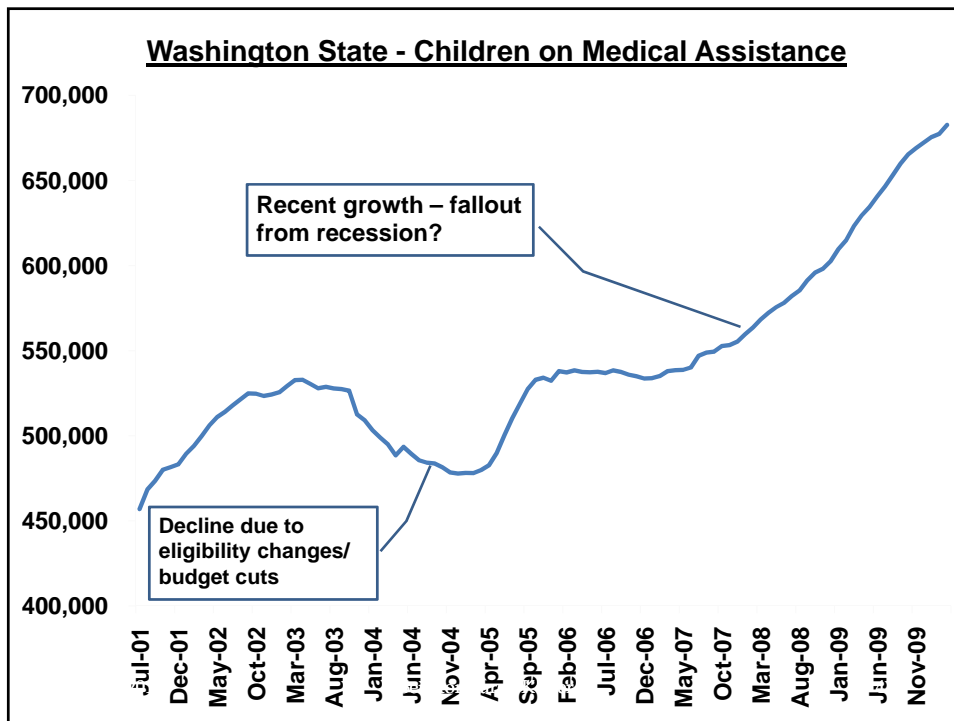
Children's Medical Programs Today

- **Children's Medical (450,000)** – Medicaid, under 19 and household income to 200% FPL
- **SCHIP (20,000)** – under 19 and household income 200%–300% FPL
- **Children's Health Program (25,000)** – state funded program for non-citizen children under 19 and household income to 300% FPL
- **Other Medical (190,000)** – foster care, SSI, and children in families meeting TANF requirements

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Steps to Increase Coverage

- 12-month, continuous eligibility
- Self-declaration of income
- Simplified, 2-page application
- During periods of budget cuts, eligibility rules were tightened to reduce the caseload. Restrictions were later removed when the economy improved

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Outreach

- Innovative data matches to identify children on other programs, including:
 - Food assistance (food stamps)
 - Free & reduced school meals
- Results:
 - Number of covered children grew by over 100,000.
 - 90-95% of eligible kids are covered. (*Percent of covered children is an estimate as the number losing employer-based coverage continues to grow.*)
- July 1, 2010, state funds for community outreach ended due to budget cuts.

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Toll-free Lines

- State contracts with non-profit (WithinReach) for toll-free line that helps callers access:
 - Apple Health for Kids (Medicaid, S-CHIP)
 - First Steps (Pregnancy Medical)
 - Basic Food (Food Stamps) & WIC
 - Cash (TANF & GAU)
 - Basic Health Insurance
 - WIC
- www.parenthelp123.org/benefit-finder

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Non-Citizen Children

- Public health requires that all children be immunized and treated for diseases. Not immunizing these kids only endangers the health of others.
- WA advocates argued that all kids deserve health care. *“Children should not be punished because of what their parents did.”*
- Non-citizen children were included in the unified “Apple Health for Kids” program
- Program currently covers (with state-only funds) about 26,000 non-citizen kids.

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WA Vaccine Association

- 2009 budget deficit led state to abandon the universal purchase of vaccines.
- Building on experience of NH and NM, coalition of insurance carriers, doctors, & advocates promoted bill establishing Washington Vaccine Association
- Non-profit Association assesses health carriers, TPA's and self-insured plans for cost of vaccines.
- Association enables a uniform program, while saving taxpayers over \$40 million per year. State continues to purchase for low-income children.

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Emerging Issues

- **Fiscal constraints:** continuing declines in revenues makes sustaining programs very difficult. Loss of the FMAP increase will worsen situation. *How can the state sustain programs until increased funding in 2014?*
- **Primary care:**
 - While rates increase to 100% of Medicare, will that be enough to make a difference?
 - How can we assure sufficient primary care providers when coverage expands in 2014?

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Questions?

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