

**COVERKIDS  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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**1. What is CoverKids?**

CoverKids is a comprehensive health insurance program for children whose families cannot afford private health insurance or do not have access to coverage. For qualifying families, there is no monthly premium – only co-pays for medical services.

CoverKids receives funding as part of the federally-sponsored State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which provides health insurance to uninsured children in all 50 states.

**2. What are the requirements for eligibility?**

- Tennessee resident
- U.S. Citizen or qualified legal alien (babies born in the U.S. will be considered citizens)
- Age 18 or younger
- Uninsured for at least three months (exceptions for TennCare disenrollees, newborns, and children transferring from another state's SCHIP program)
- Household income up to \$53,000 annually for a family of four
- Children who are Native American / Alaskan Native may be eligible for additional benefits and should include federally-recognized tribal paperwork with the application.

**3. What are the income requirements for CoverKids?**

In order to receive coverage with no monthly premium, a family's annual household income should be within the following guidelines.

<b>Number in Household</b>	<b>Maximum Income</b>
1	\$27,075
2	\$36,425
3	\$45,775
4	\$55,125
5	\$64,475
6	\$73,825
7	\$83,175
8	\$92,525

Based on 2009 federal poverty guidelines. Effective March 2009.

**4. Will CoverKids cover uninsurable children and children with special health needs?**

Yes.

CoverKids is a guaranteed issue policy and there are no pre-existing condition exclusions for its members.

**5. Why must children be uninsured for the previous three months in order to qualify?**

CoverKids is designed to provide health insurance for children who have no other option for coverage. The three month requirement prevents the program from being used as an alternative to private commercial insurance.

Exceptions to the three month go-bare requirement include:

- Newborns up to four months of age, who have not been previously insured
- Children who are leaving TennCare
- Children moving to Tennessee who were covered by SCHIP in another state, provided they meet CoverKids eligibility criteria.

**6. Once a child is enrolled, how long will the child be covered?**

Once a child is enrolled in CoverKids, coverage is for 12 months. After the first year, eligibility for the program will be verified annually.

**7. If a family's income changes during the year, can a child lose coverage?**

Once a child is enrolled in CoverKids, he or she will receive 12 months of coverage. CoverKids will not re-examine an enrollee's eligibility during this time.

However, if parents report a reduction in family income that would make the child eligible for TennCare, by federal regulations, the family would be encouraged to apply for TennCare.

**8. Does CoverKids include a maternity benefit?**

Pregnant women of any age who meet CoverKids eligibility criteria may be eligible for maternity benefits through the program, with no monthly premium.

Once a pregnant woman is approved for CoverKids, she is covered from the date she becomes effective through 60 days after delivery. Any medical treatment or physician visits related to the pregnancy or the health of the baby will be covered by CoverKids.

**9. If a woman is pregnant and has employer-sponsored health insurance, but does not have maternity coverage, is she eligible for maternity coverage under CoverKids?**

Yes, if an applicant otherwise meets CoverKids eligibility requirements she will be eligible for coverage.

**10. If a child has access to a parent's employer-sponsored insurance, but the family declined the coverage because it was too expensive, is the child eligible for CoverKids?**

Yes. Access to coverage is not a factor in CoverKids eligibility. If all other eligibility criteria are met, it is simply a matter of whether the child is insured or uninsured.

One exception is access to state employee insurance. Federal guidelines do not allow children with access to state employee health insurance to participate in CoverKids.

**11. If a child has a trauma and goes to the hospital can they enroll at the hospital?**

A family can apply for CoverKids at any time, but the coverage will not begin for approximately one month after the application, which is the standard for

commercial insurance policies. However, newborns up to four months of age will receive fast track eligibility based on the date of application.

Families are encouraged to apply for the CoverKids program before children become injured or ill.

**12. What services are covered?**

CoverKids provides comprehensive health insurance with an emphasis on preventive health services and includes the following:

- Vaccinations and well-child visits
- Physician services
- Hospitalization
- Mental health services
- Physical, speech and occupational therapy
- Vision
- Dental

**13. What types of preventive health services are covered?**

CoverKids has an emphasis on services children need most, such as well-baby and well-child visits, as well as age-appropriate immunizations according to the schedule and endorsement of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**14. What mental health benefits are included?**

CoverKids covers mental health and substance abuse treatment.

**15. What is the cost associated with CoverKids?**

Families who meet the income guidelines will not pay monthly premiums for CoverKids, but will be required to make co-payments for certain services. Co-payments will vary based on income. By federal guidelines, a family's total annual out-of-pocket expenditures cannot exceed 5 percent of the annual household income.

For families who earn more than the income maximum, a buy-in option is available. Currently, the monthly premium for this category is approximately \$225 per child.

**16. If an applicant would rather be on CoverKids than on TennCare, can the applicant request this or switch from TennCare?**

No. Any child who is eligible for TennCare will be covered accordingly. In fact, every application for CoverKids will first be screened for TennCare eligibility before enrolling the child in CoverKids.

**17. Will a child insured under CoverKids have to follow the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Program?**

No. EPSDT is a program under Medicaid/TennCare and does not apply to CoverKids. Families have access to the same preventive health services but do not have to follow EPSDT compliant procedures. CoverKids will follow the well-baby, well-child schedule laid out by the American Academy of Pediatrics, which includes age appropriate immunizations.

**18. Are children on CoverKids assigned a physician?**

No. Families will have a listing of participating physicians in their area and can select the health care provider they are most comfortable seeing. Families are encouraged to select a physician to be their medical care coordinator so their children can have continuity and quality of care.

**19. What health care providers participate in the network?**

CoverKids is part of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee's Network S, a large commercial network with providers across the state. This network provides access to at least one physician, hospital and pharmacy within 30 miles of any member, which is consistent with the standard guidelines for access to care.

**20. How do I apply?**

You may apply online at [www.CoverKids.com](http://www.CoverKids.com) or download a standard application to mail. Applications may also be requested by calling 1-866-COVERTN.

**21. Is special assistance available for help completing the CoverKids application?**

Yes.

Those who need special assistance completing the CoverKids application may call 1-866-620-8864 and request help with completing their application.

**22. What Language Assistance is available?**

A Spanish language version of the application is available, in addition to language assistance in the following languages:

Spanish/ Español 1-866-626-3409 o al (615) 214-4944 en Nashville.

Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian Bosanski (615) 313-9382 ili 1-877-652-3069 izvan Nashville

Somali Soomaali (615) 313-9894 Nashville gudaheeda, dibadeedana 1-877-652-3054

Vietnamese Tiếng Viet Xin g\_i so (615) 313-9899 hoac so mien phi 1-800-269-4901

Kurdish-Badinani 1-866-626-3411

Kurdish-Sorani 1-866-626-3411

Arabic لفشان جراخ نم 1-866-626-3411 ةيبرعلا

**23. What happens when a child is too old to qualify for CoverKids?**

CoverKids is specifically intended for children, not adults. As a result, a child is no longer eligible for CoverKids after age 19.

Once ineligible due to age, a member should explore other coverage options such as private or employer-sponsored insurance, CoverTN or AccessTN.

**24. What is the best way to learn more about CoverKids?**

Information is available at [www.CoverKids.com](http://www.CoverKids.com) or by calling 1-866-COVERTN.  
For more detailed questions about CoverKids, call 1-866-620-8864.