

2021 Healthcare for All Virginians Legislative Agenda

Expand Health Coverage Options for Immigrant Communities

The Healthcare for All Virginians (HAV) Coalition consists of nearly **100 organizations** dedicated to making Virginia a leader in offering affordable, accessible, and quality health coverage options to everyone who lives in the Commonwealth.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put into sharp focus long-standing inequities in health care coverage and access in Virginia and across the country, which have contributed to the higher incidence of the virus in Black and Latinx individuals, as well as in immigrant communities. As we navigate the public health crisis, every policy and funding decision made should move Virginia closer to becoming a place where everyone has the opportunity to not only survive, but thrive.

The following includes HAV's legislative priorities for the 2021 session by consensus of member organizations (see attached page for full list):

Increase Access To Health Coverage For Immigrants

Extend Medicaid/FAMIS MOMS pre-natal coverage to undocumented women who meet all other non-immigration eligibility criteria

- This federal option is already in use in 17 other states and would require approval to amend Virginia's CHIP state plan.¹
- Extending pre-natal coverage would result in net savings for the state in the coming years (\$2.3m in FY22) since the federal government would pay a higher share of the costs compared to emergency only services that might be used otherwise.²

**Item 312 #1h & 313 #16h
(Guzman)**

**Item 312 #1s
(McClellan)**

Clarify that Medicaid "Emergency Services" specifically cover COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination

- 12 states have elected to cover COVID-19 screening, testing, and/or all related treatment for any immigrant who meets financial requirements for Medicaid.³
- Making sure that everyone has access to COVID-19 care, regardless of immigration status or income, will help reduce the spread of the virus throughout our communities.

**HB2124 & Item 313 #4h
(Lopez)**

**Item 313 #36s
(Ebbin)**

Increase the age that "legally residing" immigrant children can qualify for Medicaid and FAMIS

Currently, "legally residing" immigrant children in Virginia qualify for coverage up to the age of 19. Federal law allows optional coverage to continue up to age 21 allowing for continuity of care and reducing gaps in health coverage.

**Item 312 #2h
Item 313 #28h
(Sickles)**

¹ [Medicaid and CHIP Income Eligibility Limits for Pregnant Women, Kaiser Family Foundation](#)

² [DMAS Agency Budget Request for 2021, Department of Planning and Budget](#)

³ [Medicaid Emergency Authority Tracker: Approved State Actions to Address COVID-19, Kaiser Family Foundation](#)

