

2021 Healthcare for All Virginians Legislative Agenda

Expanding Health Coverage Options for the Immigrant Population

The Healthcare for All Virginians (HAV) Coalition consists of over --- **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 has 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 survive and thrive.

The following includes HAV's legislative priorities for the 2021 session voted by popular consensus by 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 a CHIP state plan amendment.
- Extending pre-natal coverage would result in net savings for the state (\$2.3m in FY22) due to drawing down a higher federal match rate compared to emergency only services that might otherwise be utilized.

Clarify that Medicaid “Emergency Services” specifically cover COVID-19 screening, testing and all related treatment

- 12 states have elected to to cover COVID-19 screening, testing and all related treatment for any immigrant who meets financial requirements for Medicaid.
- This would ensure more people can seek testing and treatment for COVID-19 without concerns of costs. Providing COVID-19 care to our low income neighbors will help reduce spread of the virus throughout the community..

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 19. Federal law allows optional coverage to continue up to age 21 allowing for continuity of care and reducing gaps in health coverage.



Prepared by:
Freddy Mejia
Health Policy Analyst
804-396-2051 Ext.106
freddy@thecommonwealthinstitute.org