Universal Health Care Coverage for Children in Washington: How Did We Get Here?

1987: Expanded Funding
For children up to age 2 with income up to 90% FPL including prenatal coverage for women who do not qualify for Medicaid

1989: Maternity Care Act/First Steps
Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women and infants expanded to federal maximum level of 185% FPL

1990: Children’s Health Program
Medicaid lookalike program for children not eligible for Medicaid up to 100% FPL (not entitlement) in statute and provider rate increases

1993: Washington Health Services Act
Medicaid coverage for children expanded to 200% FPL and investments in outreach and enrollment

1999: CHIP Implemented
Coverage for children expanded up to 250% FPL through CHIP

1999: CHIP Implemented
Legislature passed law stating intent/goal to cover all children by 2010

2002-2004 Moving Backwards
Children’s Health Program not funded and non-citizen children moved to BHP, administrative hurdles added - 50,000 children lose coverage

2006: Expanded Funding
Children’s Health Program (Medicaid lookalike program for non-citizen children) fully funded and proposed premium increases prohibited

2008 Apple Health for Kids
All programs for children renamed “Apple Health for Kids”, additional investments in outreach and administrative simplification

2009 Cover All Kids Fully Implemented
All children covered up to 300% FPL

2014 ACA Implemented
Additional coverage coupled with outreach and enrollment for many eligible but unenrolled

2015 - 2020: Less than 3% of Washington’s Children are Uninsured