



State Advocacy Priorities – **DRAFT - 2022-2023**

The Florida Association of Children’s Hospitals’ members share a common vision and embrace short- and long-term strategies leading to exemplary health care for Florida’s children. We believe that promoting children’s health is essential for improving the population’s health, and that policies to prevent and/or treat children’s health problems can be wise investments. FACH members partner with policy makers in Florida to develop and implement policies and programs that improve child health outcomes, efficiency, and cost effectiveness.

Our legislative advocacy focuses on three key areas: supporting critical children’s services, increasing access to comprehensive health care for children, and adequately funding health care for children.

As in previous years, all issues will be coordinated with the Safety Net Hospital Alliance and FHA. Partnerships such as the Pediatric Society, FMA and others will be utilized where appropriate.

Support critical children’s services

Ongoing	2023 Session Focus
Continue to build and fund statewide telemedicine services and equitable reimbursement.	Secure funding to address mental/behavioral health services and implementation of timely front-end solutions to include: statewide assessment; statewide hot line/resource and referral; enhanced telehealth services.
Advocate for the development of a statewide strategy to address mental/behavioral health services.	
Increase funding, expansion, and collaboration for statewide pediatric genetics centers to reduce the backlog and respond to increased demand for testing and treatment. Seek enhanced funding for genome sequencing capability in coordination with genetic testing centers.	Develop a statewide assessment and request funding for gene sequencing program for Florida.
Develop a statewide strategy to build and adequately fund a system for pediatric rehabilitative services to coordinate care.	Provide one-time funding for grants to the state’s not-for-profit children’s hospitals to establish a statewide network of pediatric rehabilitation centers to ensure all children have access to the care they require to attain optimal outcomes from injuries, medical conditions, genetic disorders, birth traumas, and other conditions requiring rehabilitative care.
Educate state legislators regarding the ACE Kids Act. The ACE Kids Act (PL 116-16) is a flexible solution for states to improve care for the sickest children in their Medicaid program by	Seek plan amendment to allow Florida to opt-in for participation in the ACE Kids Act. Schedule a briefing of the appropriate Florida house and senate staff and AHCA and DOH staff regarding the ACE Kids Act.

enabling care coordination for children across multiple providers, easing access to necessary medical care across state lines, decreasing Medicaid spending on this population through innovative and efficient care delivery, and aligning care delivery with new accountable payment models for sustained success.

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Increase access to comprehensive health care

Ongoing	2023 Session Focus
Full funding for KidCare, full pay options, improved outreach and enrollment	Support updating the benefits package for Healthy Kids in conjunction with the Health Kids staff and board. The benefits update is not expected to require legislative action. Advocate for expanding the upper threshold of eligibility to 300% of the FPL.

Adequately fund health care for children

Ongoing	2023 Session Focus
Protect Medicaid general revenue funding.	Continue to advocate and respond as needed and when appropriate.
Ensure that DRG reimbursement reflects the cost of children's health care services.	Continue to advocate for DRG adjustments to reflect severity and unique aspects of pediatric subspecialty care.
Seek cost-related reimbursement for bone marrow transplants, cord blood transplants, orthopedic devices and implanted devices.	Continue to advocate and respond as needed and when appropriate.
Support childhood cancer funding to include cost-effective pharmaceutical resources.	Continue to advocate and respond as needed and when appropriate.