

Caring for Migrant Children

Virginia-AAP has recently joined the [Migrant Clinicians Network](#) through its *Specialty Care Access Network (SCAN)*. This is a national network of providers in key regions of the country that help facilitate transition of medical care for migrant children who may require subspecialty attention or hospitalization upon arrival into our state. We have SCAN providers now in Northern VA and Richmond. Please contact us if you need assistance with transition of medical care needs.

HHR Work Group on Health Coverage for Undocumented Children

VA-AAP is committed to improving access to health care for all children, regardless of immigration status. Through collaboration with multiple stakeholders, we introduced a budget amendment during the 2021 legislative cycle to the Virginia General Assembly, requiring the formation of a work group under the department of Health and Human Resources, to address the lack of health coverage for undocumented children in our state. As the migrant crisis at the border has increased, many children are being resettled in Virginia without health insurance once released from ORR custody. The budget amendment was adopted, and a work group of multiple stakeholders convened between June and September 2021. A detailed report from the work group is being finalized for submission, which includes the following key asks:

- 1. Establish a state-funded health care coverage option for undocumented children*
- 2. Implement a broad outreach strategy for Virginia's Medicaid and FAMIS programs to reach both newly eligible and already eligible but unenrolled children*
- 3. Find measures to improve access to culturally responsive care*

VA-AAP Update on Caring for Afghan Refugee Children

VA-AAP has been actively engaged in the current situation surrounding the arrival of Afghan refugee families and children. We held a collaborative meeting with multiple regional partners on September 1, 2021, which included colleagues from DC-AAP, regional FQHCs, legal aid partners, the Office of Refugee and Resettlement, Lutheran Social Services, Association of Medical Professionals of Afghan Americans (AMPAA), and other community partners. Initial efforts to provide school entry physicals and vaccinations for refugee children were conducted in Northern Virginia by Neighborhood Health, Healthworks and Children's National Medical Center. Care coordination between the military bases and Virginia hospitals has been ongoing. Regional pediatric points of contact at hospital centers throughout the state were provided by VA-AAP to ORR.

For providers caring for these children in your practices, please find information regarding screening labs and testing in the [Newly Arrived Immigrant Laboratory Checklist](#) within the [DMV Immigrant Child Health Toolkit](#).

Also, please refer to [Bridges to Resources](#) for a link to regional resources for families in need. More information on this is currently featured on the VA-AAP homepage.