



NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUDGET IMPACTS ON YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

NICOLE HELLER, PHD, SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

NEW HAMPSHIRE ALLIANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITIONS CONVENING

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The New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute:

- is a **nonpartisan, independent research nonprofit organization** that examines issues related to the State Budget, the economy, policy decisions, and the financial security of Granite Staters, particularly issues relevant to people with low and moderate incomes.
- **does not lobby for or against specific pieces of legislation.**
- receives **no funding from governments**. Individuals, foundations, and other organizations support the work.

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MEDICAID PREMIUMS ADDED

- Monthly premiums for Granite Advantage adults with incomes between poverty guideline and 138% of poverty guideline, dependent on household size
 - \$90 per month, or \$1,080 per year, for a family of three with incomes between \$26,650 and \$36,777 in 2025
- Monthly premiums for families with children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program component of Medicaid and incomes 255% to 323% of poverty
 - \$190 per month, or \$2,280 per year, for a two-person household with incomes \$53,933 to \$68,315 in 2025
 - \$230 per month, or \$2,760 per year, for a family of four, incomes of \$67,958 and \$86,080
- Not clear how these provisions might interact with coming federal changes

MEDICAID WORK REQUIREMENTS

- Enrollees in Granite Advantage (58,857 total in May 2025) who do not have exemptions would have to participate in eligible work or community engagement activities for at least 100 hours per month, if federal government approves request
 - Eligible activities include public- or private-sector employment, job readiness or related educational programs, mental health or substance use disorder treatment or recovery services, and community service activities
 - Exemptions include parents or caretakers of children up to 12 years old with only one parent exempt in the two-parent household, pregnant women, enrollees compliant with work requirements for certain other federal assistance programs, adults experiencing a disability or caring for someone with a disability
- About 65 percent of Medicaid-enrolled adults age 19-54 not covered by federal disability insurance were working in 2023, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation
- New Hampshire attempted work requirements in 2019, stopped implementation when nearly 17,000 adults were set to lose coverage
- Not clear how these provisions might interact with coming federal work requirements

MATERNAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

- Labor and Delivery Support:
 - Rural maternal health EMS training (\$150,000)
 - Study on reducing barriers for independent birth centers (\$30,000)
- Perinatal Care and Support
 - Depression screenings during well-child visits for pregnant or postpartum patients covered by private insurance and Medicaid
 - Creation of a perinatal psychiatric provider consult line in statute starting in SFY 2028
 - DHHS will examine development of perinatal peer support certification program
 - Insurance can waive copays for mental health and substance use treatment for perinatal patients
 - Coverage of home visiting services during pregnancy and up to 12 months postpartum for commercial insurance plans
 - Employee protection for unpaid time off to attend up to 25 hours of postpartum care and infant pediatric appointments during the infant's first year required for employers with 20 or more employees

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACEs) PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAM

- ACEs include abuse, neglect, witnessing violence, experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, household instability
- \$300,000 allocation over the biennium to support children birth to age 6 with ACEs or other “severe emotional disturbances” through:
 - Increases to Medicaid reimbursement for early childhood mental health care
 - Increase salary level/reimbursement rates for those with an early childhood and family mental health credential
 - Providing funding for training and professional development in early childhood mental health care
 - Creation of a five-year plan by DHHS to increase state workforce capacity for child-parent psychotherapy (CPP)

CHILD CARE WORKFORCE GRANTS

- \$7.5M each fiscal year for child care workforce recruitment and retention grants
 - Source of funding is federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) reserve funds
 - NH DHHS must seek approval from federal DHHS or State Attorney General for use of funds in this way
 - NH DHHS must seek a waiver to use funds for this purpose if required
 - Request to federal DHHS must be made by August 1, 2025

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Modified language of SB 243 re: New Hampshire Child Care Scholarship Program
 - Removes requirements for providers to report hourly attendance
 - Provide scholarship payments to providers prior to the start the care period
 - Presumptive eligibility two-year pilot program: Allows a family to enroll in scholarship during the application process so as not to delay access to care
 - \$100,000 to support above changes and to apply to a child care scholarship application process study

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

- Reduced from 9 positions to 5 positions
 - Added clarifying language related to duties of the Advocate, including explicitly requiring non-partisanship in oversight duties
 - Child Advocate will be nominated by the Governor and approved by Executive Council rather than appointment by the Governor
 - Require out-of-state travel to be approved by the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee, except travel required to make sure children are receiving appropriate services

DEI PROHIBITION IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Prohibition on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, including programs, training, or policies, at public entities, including school districts with risks to all State funding for non-compliance
 - “DEI” defined as “any program, policy, training, or initiative that classifies individuals based on a characteristic” including “age, sex, gender identity, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability or national origin...sexual orientation” in the referenced statute “for the purpose of achieving demographic outcomes, rather than treating individuals equally under the law.”
 - Department of Education must report to the Legislature about all existing DEI-related contracts in public schools, review all contracts, and report on process for eliminating DEI-related provisions
 - Prohibition also applies to state, city, town, and county governments

OTHER CHANGES

- Requires \$51.0 million in unspecified budget reductions at the NH DHHS
- Lowered funding for the Family Planning Program to \$1.0 million from last year's rate of \$1.7 million per biennium, with carve out of \$150,000 specifically for Coos County health
- Boosted funding for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families payments and assistance in federal and State funds
- Allocated \$30,000 in General Funds towards WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, to be matched with federal funding
- Funded positions to support Summer EBT Program with \$105,000 in General Funds
- Contributed \$3.0 million to fund Child Advocacy Centers at the Department of Justice and \$800,000 for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

ADDITIONAL NHFPI RESOURCES

- Weekly Newsletter: <https://nhfpi.org/subscribe>
- Blog: Legislature Passes Budget Paired with Changes to Retirement Benefits, School Funding – June 27, 2025: <https://nhfpi.org/blog/legislature-passes-budget-paired-with-changes-to-retirement-benefits-school-funding/>
- Blog: Committee of Conference Budget Nearly Matches Senate Version on Spending, Trims Retirement and University System Appropriations – June 23, 2025: <https://nhfpi.org/blog/committee-of-conference-budget-nearly-matches-senate-version-on-spending-trims-retirement-and-university-system-appropriations/>
- State Budget Webinar Series: <https://nhfpi.org/events/examining-the-state-budget-2025-webinar-series/>
- Resource Page: Budget: <https://nhfpi.org/topic/budget/>



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ADDRESS: 100 North Main Street, Suite 400, Concord, NH 03301

PHONE: 603.856.8337

WEBSITE: www.nhfpi.org

EMAIL: info@nhfpi.org

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FACEBOOK: NewHampshireFiscalPolicyInstitute

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