

## Caring for kids

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*Dorian Webb, a nurse practitioner at Family Healthcare in St. George, examines 12-year-old Kyser George's foot in one of the clinic's exam rooms Tuesday. / Jud Burkett / The Spectrum & Daily News*

### To Learn More

For information about CHIP and how to register, visit [health.utah.gov/chip](http://health.utah.gov/chip) or contact the Family Healthcare Clinic at 435-986-2565 in St. George and 435-865-1387 in Cedar City to meet with an outreach specialist.

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**GEORGE** — As the world of health care changes with the opening of the federal Healthcare Marketplace, Utah's Avenue H and expanding Medicaid and CHIP programs, the Utah Department of Health is anticipating an increase in

the number of children insured through such programs.

Kolbi Young, Utah Department of Health spokesperson, said the eligibility requirements for Medicaid and CHIP for children have expanded income limits for parents, so more children will be able to qualify for health insurance under the programs.

CHIP in Utah insures about 35,000 children, but that number will change as the Medicaid expansion takes place, Young said.

The asset test for parents is also no longer a requirement for CHIP and Medicaid, which means more children will likely qualify for Medicaid coverage rather than CHIP, Young said.

"It is anticipated that both Medicaid and CHIP will see an increase in participation," she said. "Between the drop of the asset test and the income limit expansion, it is making it possible for more families to qualify."

CHIP provides Utah families who earn 200 percent or more of the poverty rate with subsidized health care for their children, Young said. That equates to about \$47,100 per year for a family of four. Medicaid income limits have expanded to 133 percent of the poverty rate, or about \$31,322 per year.

Nancy Neff, CEO of the Family Healthcare Clinic in St. George, said she is seeing more residents come in to the clinic looking for health coverage through the federal Healthcare Marketplace and discover they actually qualify for Medicaid.

"This is a good thing for kids and families," she said. "We see people who think they qualify for the marketplace who actually qualify for Medicaid. That is a pretty easy process if they come in and talk to our certified outreach specialists."

However, the numbers of Utah children insured is still lower than many states, with Utah ranking 15th for

highest uninsured rate for children 18 and younger in the United States, according to information from Voices for Utah Children, a child advocacy group.