

REFERENCE TITLE: **eligibility; children's health insurance program**

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2026

## **HB 2521**

Introduced by  
Representatives Stahl Hamilton: Contreras P, Garcia, Gutierrez, Luna-  
Nájera, Simacek, Travers, Villegas, Volk; Senator Ortiz

**AN ACT**

**AMENDING SECTION 36-2981, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE  
CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:  
2 Section 1. Section 36-2981, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:  
4 36-2981. Definitions  
5 In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:  
6 1. "Administration" means the Arizona health care cost containment  
7 system administration.  
8 2. "Contractor" means a health plan that contracts with the  
9 administration to provide hospitalization and medical care to members  
10 according to this article or a qualifying plan.  
11 3. "Director" means the director of the administration.  
12 4. "Federal poverty level" means the federal poverty level  
13 guidelines published annually by the United States department of health  
14 and human services.  
15 5. "Health plan" means an entity that contracts with the  
16 administration for services provided pursuant to article 1 of this  
17 chapter.  
18 6. "Member" means a person who is eligible for and enrolled in the  
19 program, who is under nineteen years of age and whose gross household  
20 income meets the following requirements:  
21 ~~(a) Beginning on October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2023, has~~  
22 ~~income at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level.~~  
23 ~~(b) (a) Beginning on October 1, 2023 and for each fiscal year~~  
24 ~~thereafter~~ THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, subject to the approval of the  
25 centers for medicare and medicaid services, has income at or below two  
26 hundred twenty-five percent of the federal poverty level.  
27 (b) BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1, 2026 AND FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR  
28 THEREAFTER, HAS AN INCOME AT OR BELOW THREE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL  
29 POVERTY LEVEL.  
30 7. "Noncontracting provider" means an entity that provides hospital  
31 or medical care but does not have a contract or subcontract with the  
32 administration.  
33 8. "Physician" means a person who is licensed pursuant to title 32,  
34 chapter 13 or 17.  
35 9. "Prepaid capitated" means a method of payment by which a  
36 contractor delivers health care services for the duration of a contract to  
37 a specified number of members based on a fixed rate per member, per month  
38 without regard to the number of members who receive care or the amount of  
39 health care services provided to a member.  
40 10. "Primary care physician" means a physician who is a family  
41 practitioner, general practitioner, pediatrician, general internist,  
42 obstetrician or gynecologist.  
43 11. "Primary care practitioner" means a nurse practitioner who is  
44 certified pursuant to title 32, chapter 15 or a physician assistant who is

1 licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 25 and who is acting within the  
2 respective scope of practice of those chapters.

3 12. "Program" means the children's health insurance program.

4 13. "Qualifying plan" means a contractor that contracts with the  
5 state pursuant to section 38-651 to provide health and accident insurance  
6 for state employees and that provides services to members pursuant to  
7 section 36-2989, subsection A.

8 14. "Special health care district" means a special health care  
9 district organized pursuant to title 48, chapter 31.

10 15. "Tribal facility" means a facility that is operated by an  
11 Indian tribe or tribal organization and that is authorized to provide  
12 services pursuant to Public Law 93-638, as amended.