

ERS

EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS

STATE KIDS INSURANCE PROGRAM (SKIP)



WE ARE PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER TO COVER WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN LIFE

Think you can't afford health insurance for your kids? Think again! If you qualify for the State Kids Insurance Program (SKIP) premium supplement, you only pay \$15 or \$25 per month, depending on your income.

■ The SKIP premium supplement pays most of your health insurance premium for your eligible children under 19. Depending on your income, you pay \$15 or \$25 a month.

■ SKIP is available to active employees who qualify based on their income level.

Your eligibility for SKIP is determined by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), not by ERS or your employer.

Benefit for Plan Year 2010

Phyllis is a Full-time Employee participating in HealthSelect Member & Children Coverage

Premium	\$680.42
State Contribution Pays	-\$532.90
State Employee without SKIP Pays	\$147.52
SKIP Premium Pays	-\$122.52
State Employee with SKIP Pays	\$25.00

NOTE: Health plan premium will change in Plan Year 2011.

ALREADY ENROLLED?

Re-apply by August 1 to keep SKIP for the next plan year.

You must re-apply for SKIP each year. If you don't re-apply every year, your monthly cost for your child's health insurance will go way up.

HOW TO APPLY

You can print a SKIP application and instructions at www.ers.state.tx.us/Insurance/Forms. You can also ask your benefits coordinator for one. Fill out the application, and send it to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) at the address listed on the application.

The application asks for the name of your employer. It also asks questions about your family and children. SKIP was designed to help employees who have lower incomes afford health insurance for their kids. Your family must meet income and asset requirements to take part in the SKIP program. For SKIP purposes, a family is made up of the employee, his or her spouse, and all eligible children under the age of 19. Grandparents or other relatives who live in the household are not counted in family size.

HOW TO QUALIFY

You may qualify for SKIP if you:

- Meet family income guidelines (see table below);
- Have children eligible for state insurance under the age of 19 living with you in Texas;
- Are not eligible for Medicaid;
- Have a child who is a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident; and
- Are eligible for benefits under the Texas Employees Group Benefits Program (GBP).

SKIP income guidelines

(effective April 1, 2010)

Family Size*	Annual Family Income	Monthly Family Income
2	\$29,148	\$2,429
3	36,624	3,052
4	44,100	3,675
5	51,588	4,299
6	59,064	4,922
7	66,540	5,545
8	74,028	6,169

* Add \$624 to the Monthly Family Income for each additional family member. "Family size" includes the employee, spouse, and all eligible dependents under the age of 19. The total number does not include children over the age of 19, grandparents, or other relatives who may be living in the household.

If your application is approved and your SKIP-eligible child(ren) are not currently covered by your health plan, they will be added automatically the first of the month

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after you receive the SKIP approval letter and ERS is notified you have been approved for SKIP.

SKIP AND MEDICAID

Your eligibility for the SKIP program is determined by HHSC, not by ERS or your employer. If you are eligible for Medicaid, you will not qualify for SKIP. HHSC will review your application and send you a letter telling you if your children qualify for Medicaid or SKIP.

You can apply anytime during the year.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I work at HHSC. Will they know I'm applying for SKIP?

No. A special unit within HHSC determines your eligibility for SKIP.

What if I am a part-time employee?

As long as you are eligible for benefits under the GBP, you may apply for SKIP. Your monthly health coverage premium will be different than that of a full-time employee.

What expenses will SKIP cover?

You get the exact same benefits with SKIP that you get in all the GBP health plans: doctor visits, your child's shots, and vision exams—just to name a few of the covered services.

Is there a fee to apply for SKIP?

No. There is no fee to apply for SKIP.

When can I apply for SKIP?

You can apply at any time throughout the year.

**FOR ASSISTANCE, CALL HHSC AT
(877) KIDS-NOW/
(877) 543-7669.**



What can I send in to verify my income?

Acceptable verifications include, but are not limited to:

- Paycheck stub dated within 60 days before or after the application date;
 - Copies of tax return dated within the last two years;
 - Letter from an employer (even if you are employed by HHSC) verifying current income and frequency of payment (letter should contain identifying information for the client, identifying information for the employer, gross income and frequency, employer's signature, and be dated within 60 days before or after the application date);
 - Form H1028, employment verification;
 - Most recent child support check (dated within 60 days before or after the application date); or
 - Most recent Social Security check.
- You only need to send one verification for each of the income sources listed above.

What can I send in to verify my expenses?

Acceptable verifications include, but are not limited to:

- Statement or a current bill from child care provider (dated within 60 days before or after the application date);
- Current receipts (dated within 60 days before or after the application date) for each child;
- Most recent income tax return;
- Child support payment processed through the Attorney General office;
- County Clerk records;

- Cancelled checks for verification of expense source (dated within 60 days before or after the application date);
- Verification of withholding from unemployment income benefits; or
- Withholding statements from unemployment compensation; or
- Statement from the custodial parent regarding direct payments or third party payments paid on his/her behalf (dated within 60 days before or after the application date).

You only need to send one document for each individual expense to verify your expenses.

SPEED UP YOUR APPLICATION. AVOID THESE COMMON MISTAKES.

- Make sure your name is the name in Section 1 of the application if you are the employee. Do not list your spouse or other family members in Section 1. If you are filling out the application and you are not the employee, list the employee's name.
- Include the employee's Social Security number (SSN). The application won't be processed without the SSN, or other missing information.
- Do not include children age 19 and older. They are NOT counted in the family size. Their income is also not counted toward the family's income.
- Do not send W-2s. HHSC cannot accept W-2s for income verification.

FILL OUT YOUR SKIP APPLICATION AND MAIL TO THE HHSC ADDRESS ON THE APPLICATION.