

ILLINOIS VFC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Providers must screen for and document VFC eligibility with every immunization visit.

To be eligible to receive Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccine, children (regardless of their state of residency) through the age of 18 (under 19 years of age) must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. **Medicaid-eligible:** A child who is enrolled in Medicaid.
2. **Uninsured:** A child who is not covered by any health insurance plan
3. **American Indian or Alaskan Native (AI/AN):** A child who is part of this population as defined by the [Indian Health Care Improvement Act \(25 U.S.C. 1603\)](#).
4. **Underinsured:**
 - A child who has health insurance, but coverage does not include any vaccines
 - A child who has health insurance, but coverage does not include all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices(ACIP)
 - A child who has health insurance, but coverage has a fixed dollar limit (or cap) for vaccines.
 - A child who has health insurance, but insurance does not provide first dollar coverage for vaccines

Underinsured children are eligible to receive VFC vaccine only at either:

- Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs)
- Rural health clinics (RHCs), or
- Local health departments (LHDs) under an approved deputized agreement.

Before they administer a vaccine to an underinsured child, providers must verify whether the child's health insurance plan covers ACIP-recommended vaccines. If the provider cannot verify vaccination coverage, then the child is considered insured for the purposes of the VFC program; the child is not eligible to receive VFC vaccines at that immunization encounter.