

Grants provide health care for kids

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A grant from The California Endowment will pay health insurance premiums for 450 children in Fresno County for the coming year, local children's health advocates say.

The Fresno Regional Foundation received \$450,000 from the endowment for children ages 6 to 18 who are enrolled in Healthy Kids, a Fresno County Children's Health Initiative program.

Healthy Kids provides medical, dental and vision insurance to children who are in families with incomes too high to qualify for government insurance programs and also provides insurance to children who are undocumented.

The endowment grant "allows us to continue to keep them covered," said Norma Forbes, program administrator for the Children's Health Initiative.

The California Endowment, a private health foundation that provides grants to community-based organizations, gave \$7.75 million to 20 Children's Health Initiatives in 23 counties.

Other central San Joaquin Valley agencies receiving grants from the endowment for children's insurance programs: Tulare County Health and Human Services, \$250,000; County of Kings Department of Public Health, \$50,000; and the Merced County Department of Public Health, \$100,000.