

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 2, 2024
TO: Volunteer Health Care Provider Program Participating Clinics
FROM: Christopher P. Gainous, Sr., Program Director, Volunteer Health Services
SUBJECT: Immediate change in Volunteer Health Care Provider Program eligibility requirement

During the 2024 session, the Florida Legislature approved a new law, [Chapter 2024-015, Laws of Florida](#), regarding health care. The new law took effect when signed by Governor Ron DeSantis on March 21, 2024. The law changes the eligibility requirements for the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program.

Effective immediately, section 766.1115, Florida Statutes, is amended to reflect that the maximum income a patient may have in order to be considered low-income has now increased from 200 percent to 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

Amended section 766.1115(3)(e), Florida Statutes, reads as follows:

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(e) “Low-income” means:

1. A person who is Medicaid-eligible under Florida law;
2. A person who is without health insurance and whose **family income does not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty level** as defined annually by the federal Office of Management and Budget; or
3. Any client of the department who voluntarily chooses to participate in a program offered or approved by the department and meets the program eligibility guidelines of the department.”

The Department of Health intends to initiate rulemaking to update the eligibility criteria and forms adopted in rule 64I-2.002, Florida Administrative Code. Clinics that currently have the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program Patient Referral Forms (DH-1032) may continue to utilize such forms, but should apply the updated eligibility criteria of family income that does not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

