

STRENGTHEN MEDICAID. PROTECT KIDS.



Policymakers must safeguard Medicaid to ensure every child can access the care they need.

MEDICAID IS A SMART INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

Medicaid is vital. It covers kids in every state, from every background and every community. It provides affordable, comprehensive coverage to children in working families and kids with special health care needs. This federal-state partnership provides the largest source of children's health care coverage in the U.S.

MEDICAID WAS DESIGNED WITH KIDS IN MIND

Medicaid provides children access to comprehensive services through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit. This benefit ensures Medicaid covers the preventive services kids need—things like immunizations, well-child checkups, and vision and dental services. It also covers medically necessary care, so children can see a pediatric subspecialist or get the therapy they need.

MEDICAID STEPS UP FOR KIDS WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

Medicaid covers most of the nation's children with serious or complex health conditions. For kids with serious medical conditions, Medicaid provides coverage or fills coverage gaps for services not covered by private insurance. No one plans for kids to get sick, but thankfully Medicaid is a safety net for all our children.

MEDICAID HELPS KIDS REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Children covered by Medicaid are more likely to receive preventive health care that keeps them in school, annual visits that enable them to participate in sports, and treatment for illnesses or injuries. These benefits lead to healthier and stronger students, enhancing school achievement and economic success as adults.⁷

MEDICAID HELPS CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS CARE FOR KIDS

Children's hospitals are at the core of the pediatric health care delivery system, bringing together teams of subspecialists to provide care not available in other settings. Though children's hospitals account for approximately 5% of all hospitals in the United States, they account for about 50% of all hospital days for children covered by Medicaid.⁸ Since they serve children from many states, children's hospitals must coordinate with multiple state Medicaid programs.

~36M

of the approximately 75M U.S. children rely on Medicaid/CHIP at some point during the year.^{1,2}

~48%

of Medicaid/CHIP enrollees are children.¹

42%

of children with special health care needs are covered by Medicaid/CHIP.³

~3M

children in military-connected families are eligible for or covered by Medicaid.⁴

40.6%

of children who live in small towns and rural areas were enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP in 2023.⁵

>4M

children covered by Medicaid/CHIP were treated for a mental health condition in 2023.⁶

1. "December 2025: Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Operations and Enrollment Snapshot," U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, March 2026. 2. "Population Distribution by Age," KFF, 2024. 3. "5 Key Facts About Children with Special Health Care Needs and Medicaid," KFF, April 2025. 4. "Medicaid: A Vital Resource for Nearly 3 Million Military-Connected Children," FTI Consulting, 2023. 5. "Medicaid's Role in Small Towns and Rural Areas," Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy Center for Children and Families, January 2025. 6. "T-MSIS Behavioral Health (BH) Data Book: Treatment of BH Conditions in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, 2023," Table A.10. Number and percentage of Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries treated for a MH condition in 2023, by major enrollment category, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, December 2025. 7. "How Medicaid Supports Student Success," Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy Center for Children and Families, January 2025. 8. Children's Hospital Association's Analysis of Kids' Inpatient Database (KID), Healthcare Cost and Utilization (HCUP), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2022.