



THE CHILDREN'S CHAMPION

Although we've made it through the most imminent federal threats to Medicaid, there is still much to do to protect children's health insurance programs.

It's August recess for Congress! They will be out of session for the rest of August. Now is the time to:

- (1) learn as much as possible about how Tennessee's children benefit from health coverage and how vital the ACA, Medicaid and CHIP have been to the amazing gains in children's coverage in Tennessee;
- (2) Communicate this information to our congressional delegation through letters to the editor, op-eds, letters from your group, in-person meetings or public events.

Our goal is to let our representatives know that it is not a viable option to cut Medicaid to pay for any market stabilization plan, that the federal budget would be a non-starter if it includes SNAP and Medicaid cuts to fund tax breaks, and that CHIP needs to be reauthorized by September 30th without structural changes.

In this newsletter we will cover: local and federal developments, how health coverage helps kids excel in school, and ways to get involved in improving our health care system.

If there is any information you would like us to share on your behalf, including events and resources, please reply to this email.

QUICK LINKS

ICYMI

- As we've mentioned before, TennCare and/or Medicaid Savings Plans are going through the redetermination process. If you know someone who needs help with a packet or if they are cut from TennCare, they can call us for help. **We can provide resources and trainings to advocates who help with these packets.**
- [Here is a flyer about TennCare redeterminations. Please distribute as widely as you can.](#)
- There has been some media coverage of our work on redetermination and Speaker Beth Harwell stated that the legislature will work with TennCare on this issue.
 - [Springfield family caught in the TennCare enrollment gap](#)
 - [Seniors left scrambling after TennCare cuts SS checks](#)
- [CHIP turned 20 on August 5! Read this powerful op-ed from a pediatrician at a children's hospital about the need for CHIP.](#)
- We are constantly collecting [the most illuminating and inspiring stories from our clients and community.](#) Please read and share. If you know anyone who would like to share their story, please let us know!



[TennCare keeps this Carter County family together](#)



[Family able to care for](#)

youngest son with
severe health needs
because of TennCare



Perry County family
believes that regardless
of income, every child
with a disability should
get the care that they
need.

- Last volume of the Children's Champion. You can find the rest of them at: tnjustice.org/childrens-health/.
- Children's facts on Facebook & Twitter - share or repost away!
 - Ten things to know about Medicaid's role for children with behavioral health needs
 - CHIP turned 20!
 - CHIP helps children stay in school

**THE MORE YOU
KNOW... BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION!**

Medicaid Has Long-Term Benefits for Kids

Children who are eligible for Medicaid health coverage:



do better in school,



miss fewer school days due to illness or injury,



are more likely to finish high school, attend college, and graduate from college,



have fewer emergency-room visits and hospitalizations as adults, and

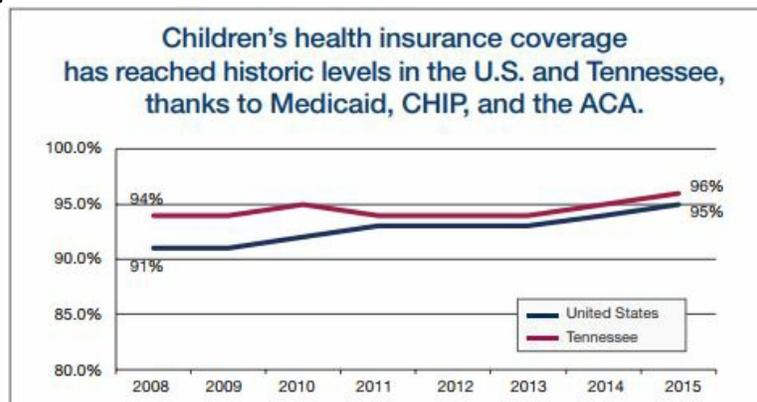


earn more as adults.

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

Source: <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-helps-schools-help-children>

Resources:



[TN Snapshot of Children's Coverage from Georgetown CCF](#)

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: [The Relationship Between School Attendance and Health](#)
- Annie E. Casey Foundation: [Statement on importance of children's access to health care and link to Kids COUNT data for state specifics](#)
- [A comprehensive report by Kaiser Family Foundation](#) on where children get their coverage, the gains in insurance since the ACA became law, and what is at risk if CHIP is not reauthorized in a timely manner. Although this report is from 2014, it has many prescient points and graphics.
- [Families USA blog on how expanding Medicaid for adults will in turn help children in school.](#)
- [Our blog post about how Medicaid and public education work together.](#)

- [Resources for finding uninsured children and working to get them enrolled](#). The more children covered, the better outcomes they will have in life!

LOOKING FORWARD

Federal level:

- **CHIP needs to be reauthorized by September 30.** Although [Tennessee's CoverKids program is financially solvent until May 2018](#), it causes providers, patients, and the state budget immense uncertainty if it is not reauthorized in a timely manner.
- Budget debates will continue in September. As of right now, **the budget assumes drastic cuts to entitlement programs, which includes Medicaid, SNAP, Medicare and Social Security, to fund tax cuts.** It's important that we leverage contact with our House representatives when these are debated.
- Sen. Alexander will be hosting bipartisan committee hearings on ways to stabilize the individual marketplace when he gets back to DC. While we are hopeful that these talks will help mitigate the issues with the Marketplace, it would be disastrous to use Medicaid cuts as a way to pay for the market stabilization plan. **We need to get the message to Sen. Alexander that cutting Medicaid does not work for our state's children.**

State level:

- Be vigilant about requests to amend Tennessee's Medicaid waiver to add **problematic provisions like work requirements and cost sharing.**

JOIN US



Welcome the newest member of TJC's Children's Health Team, Dennisse Calle! Dennisse is our new King Child Health Fellow.

Dennisse received her B.A. in Sociology with a focus in Latin American Studies from Princeton University in 2016. Her thesis was a qualitative study of how ungoverned media affects the habitus of Cubans in an emerging capitalist society. Her coursework involved understanding the intersections of gender, race, and the State in the U.S.

Last year she was a fellow at the Coalition for Hispanic Family Services in Brooklyn, NY where she spearheaded capacity-building trainings surrounding immigration rights, managed grants and projects, and coordinated the annual Foster Care holiday party. She is enthused to be working as a King Child Health Fellow at TJC and is excited to learn how Tennessee cares for its children.

We will miss De Vann Sago as she starts her next chapter at Georgetown Law, but we are so excited to work with Dennisse.

Upcoming projects and events:

- **TJC Student Ambassador Project coming soon!** We are working on an exciting new project for high school students who have benefited from Medicaid or CHIP and want to make a difference in their community. Stay tuned for details. Dennisse will be the point of contact for this project. Her email is dcalle@tnjustice.org.
- **Save My Care Bus returning to Nashville - Centennial Park, Friday Aug. 18 at noon!** More information here: <https://www.savemycare.org/tourevents/>.
- **Tennessee Health Care Campaign's Annual Conference: "Health Care is Complicated: What's Next?" - Sept. 16.** Visit <http://www.thcc2.org/conference/> to register and for more information.

Sincerely,

Kinika Young
Director of Children's Health
kyoung@tnjustice.org



STAY CONNECTED:



