

Children's Champion

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Summer is a good time to lay the groundwork for new partners, new projects and new opportunities.

The Insure Our Kids campaign is gaining steam with 22 partner organizations working across the state to reach uninsured children who are eligible for TennCare and CoverKids.

We are always looking for more outreach opportunities and collaboration on the campaign. Please reach out if you or your organization would like to get involved.

QUICK LINKS

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INSURE OUR KIDS UPDATES

We've made some exciting connections in Memphis and are planning a presentation to several Memphis organizations for July. We're pleased to welcome our 1st Memphis-based organization, YWCA of Greater Memphis Area, as an official campaign partner!

We also launched the [Insure Our Kids Facebook](#) page. Please "like" and "follow" it! We'll use Facebook to communicate news and developments related to the campaign and to share photos, infographics, and other resources.

Campaign information was shared at the CASA conference in Murfreesboro and the McGavock High School Health Expo in Nashville. If you know of upcoming community events where we can promote Insure Our Kids, please let us know.

The Tennessee Health Care Campaign reported that referrals connected to Insure Our Kids outreach efforts have started to trickle in. We want to turn this trickle into a steady stream of calls!

If you need help applying for
TennCare and CoverKids, call
1-844-644-5443.

If you have already applied and
been denied, call the Tennessee
Justice Center at
1-877-608-1009
to get free help to file an appeal.



Don't forget to check out insureourkids.org for more information.

ICYMI



- Kinika Young, TJC's Director of Children's Health, was selected for the [Nashville Medical News 2018 Class of Women to Watch](#).
- Our most recent blogs:
 - [The Importance of Maternal Depression Screenings](#)
 - [How Medicaid Expansion Will Help Tennessee Children](#)
- CMS inaugurates [Medicaid scorecards](#) for state programs
 - [Tennessee's scorecard](#)

THE MORE YOU KNOW



Excerpt from Community Catalyst's [blog post](#) about the 2019 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters which sets rules for insurance issuers:

When the Affordable Care Act (ACA) passed and included pediatric services as an Essential Health Benefit (EHB) category, tentative excitement rippled through the children's advocacy community. At last, policymakers were acknowledging children's care as both different from that of adults and important. Since that statutory nod to pediatric services in the EHB provision of the ACA, health plans progressed in some important ways. Many plans now include preventive services, like pediatric dental and vision care and habilitative care that supports children with autism and other developmental challenges.

While there is still room for improvement to meet the needs of all children - particularly those with chronic care or special health care needs - maintaining coverage for the full array of pediatric EHBs is paramount. The movement forward must also create a broader system-wide shift toward robust pediatric coverage for all children, regardless of their health insurance pathway.

Why are these pediatric services at risk?

The new EHB selection process seeks to slim down plans, allowing states to pick and choose benefits *as long as* they are not more generous than the status quo. For pediatric services that are integral to children's health, the outcome will simply be fewer service offerings, leaving many children without access to the health care they need.

Further, the [2019 NBPP allows issuers to substitute services](#) both across and within the 10 EHB categories starting in 2020. In general, the number of adults enrolled in EHB plans far outnumber children utilizing those plans, resulting in a reduced focus on both pediatric benefits and services. Adding flexibility to adopt and swap benefits could be an invitation to swap and diminish existing pediatric services.

What is at stake?

The recently released [2019 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters](#), which sets rules for insurance issuers selling plans on the ACA exchanges, seeks to alter [how states choose to cover EHBs](#), changing the building materials just as children's health advocates have completed constructing the foundation. While the EHB categories stay intact, the benefits included in them are at risk. This shift in approach threatens the health and well-being of children and families who rely on EHB-conforming plans. Even small changes in the scope of benefits could negatively affect children by allowing states to choose benchmark plans that are less generous and less comprehensive than what children need to maintain their health and well-being.

What do we do?

- **Review** your EHB plan to refresh your understanding of how pediatric services is currently covered in your state and ask your key contacts at the Department of Insurance (DOI) if they are planning to review the state's EHB benchmark and move ahead with a change.
- **Monitor** any statements, alerts or information coming out the state DOI regarding public hearings.
- **Show up** with your coalition and respond to any proposed changes to the EHB through a range of tactics.

LOOKING FORWARD



Federal level:

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), passed as part of the [Bipartisan Budget Act](#) in February 2018, presents a new funding option for states to provide mental health and substance abuse services in order to prevent the placement of children in foster care.

The Family First Prevention Services Act allows states to use Title IV-E funds to cover:

- Mental health treatment;
- Substance use disorder treatment; and
- In-home, skill-based parenting programs.

State level:

The National Academy for State Health Policy and Maternal and Child Environmental Health Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network released a [50-state survey](#) of lead screening and treatment standards.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services require blood lead tests for all children with Medicaid coverage at ages 12 months and 24 months. In addition, any child between ages 24 and 72 months with no record of a previous blood lead test must receive one.

JOIN US



Libations with a side of inspiration!

You're invited to a happy hour reception highlighting Tennessee Justice Center's service to clients in Memphis and beyond, and honoring the recipients of our Pro-Bono Attorney of the Year and Pro-Bono Firm of the Year Awards.

Whether you're attending the Tennessee Bar Association Convention or just coming to see The Peabody's famous ducks, we hope you'll [join us!](#) Light refreshments and drinks will be served.

TJC Reception & Pro-Bono Attorney and Pro-Bono Firm of the Year Awards

Friday, June 15, 2018
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
The Peabody Memphis
149 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN 38103

Please pass this invitation on to anyone who might want to learn about the work TJC is doing. TJC has served thousands in West Tennessee and trained many more. Together, we're improving hundreds of thousands of lives.

We hope to see you there!
On Facebook? [Share our event!](#)
Interested in being an event sponsor? [Contact us!](#)



**INSURE OUR KIDS
ENROLLMENT TRAINING**

THURSDAY, JUNE 14
11 AM CST

Insure Our Kids Enrollment Webinar Thursday, June 14 11 AM-12 PM CDT

The Insure Our Kids Enrollment Webinar will include coverage options, eligibility, and the enrollment process. This is the same content as the last training. We are hoping to reach a new audience so if you enjoyed the training in the past, please pass it on to anyone you think could benefit from the information.

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

As a reminder, the Tennessee Justice Center also helps with:

1. Enrollment onto TennCare and CoverKids
2. Service Issues
3. Redetermination Issues

If you ever encounter anyone who is having trouble getting health insurance or getting health services, please call TJC: (615) 255-0331.

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

Sincerely,

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



STAY CONNECTED:



kyoung@tnjustice.org | 615-255-0331 | <https://www.tnjustice.org/>