

# Children's Champion

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I hope you all had a wonderful holiday last week!

We are pleased to announce we are forming a Children's Health Advisory Council that will convene for the first time next month. Our hope is to bring together community members - from clergy to law enforcement officers - who will help us strengthen our advocacy.

We are excited for this new opportunity to grow our impact and to bring in a wide array of perspectives to create a fuller picture of what we can accomplish together for Tennessee's children.

## QUICK LINKS

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## INSURE OUR KIDS UPDATES

In June, we finalized plans for an in-person training in Memphis, which will be July 19, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Church Health. Thanks to Common Table Health Alliance for being a convening partner. Please share this [flyer](#) and this [registration link](#) with your contacts in Memphis.

The reoccurring webinar will also take place on August 9 at 11 a.m. and people can [register here](#).

Check out this op-ed titled "[Insuring our kids, ensuring their future](#)" that was recently published in the Commercial Appeal.

Insure Our Kids information was shared with the community at the Let's Breathe Health Fair in Memphis on June 16 and on the MNPS radio show that aired live on Radio Luz Nashville on June 22.

Don't forget to "like" and "follow" the Insure Our Kids [Facebook page](#).



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](http://insureourkids.org) for more information.

## ICYMI

- On 6/29, a federal judge [blocked](#) Kentucky's Medicaid work requirements. The judge ruled that the Department of Health and Human Services did not adequately consider whether work requirements meet Medicaid's goal of providing health care to low-income Americans. Check out our [work requirements fact sheet](#) for more information on Medicaid work requirements and Tennessee.
- Following President Trump's announcement on 6/20 that he would issue an executive order to allow families crossing the border to be detained together, ending the administration's policy of separating children from their parents, Kinika Young, Director of Children's Health at the Tennessee Justice Center, issued the following statement:

"The tragedy unfolding at the U.S. border because of the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" immigration enforcement policy has created a child health crisis that must be addressed. The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and many other experts have spoken out in opposition to this cruel policy. As an organization that works to promote children's health and well-being, we understand that children being ripped from their parents causes toxic stress that can derail their brain development and cause lasting physical, social and emotional health

problems. In Tennessee, where approximately [46%](#) of children experience at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE), we should not overlook the far-reaching implications of what is happening at the border. While it is important to immediately stop separating children from their parents and determine how families can be safely detained together, we must also work to address the damage that the separations have caused to the health and development of children. We should prioritize reuniting the families and providing [trauma-informed care](#) to meet their health needs and mitigate the significant harm that these actions have already caused. We urge Congress to work quickly to reach a bipartisan solution that treats all immigrants, particularly those seeking refuge in the U.S., fairly and humanely and to ensure this tragedy never occurs again."

- What is "built environment" and why does it matter? Read [TJC's latest blog post](#) about how a healthier environment can improve health outcomes.

## THE MORE YOU KNOW



For a healthier community, we must first ensure everyone has the basics to be healthy. And when it comes to expanding opportunities for health, thinking the same approach will work universally is like expecting everyone to be able to ride the same bike. #PromoteHealthEquity

Excerpt from [Achieving Health Equity](#) by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation:

In a Culture of Health, everyone has the opportunity to live a healthier life, no matter who we are, where we live, or how much money we make.

Personal responsibility plays a key role in health, but the choices we make depend on the choices we have available to us. We must work together to ensure that everyone has all opportunity to make healthy choices, and to achieve better health for all.

### WHAT IS HEALTH EQUITY?

Across the nations, gaps in health are large, persistent and increasing. Health equity means everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthier. It

acknowledges that it's hard to be healthy without access to good jobs, homes and schools. It requires concerted effort to increase opportunities to be healthier for everyone - especially those whose obstacles are greatest.

## LOOKING FORWARD



### **Federal level:**

- Last week the Senate passed a bipartisan version of the Farm Bill that funds SNAP. Both Tennessee senators voted to table the Cruz-Kennedy amendment, which included harmful cuts to SNAP that would have increased hunger in our state. The House passed a different version of this bill the week before that, if enacted, would impose strict new work requirements on SNAP recipients. The two chambers will have to reconcile their bills before final passage.
- A coalition for federal offices and conservative think tanks called for a restriction to Medicaid through block grants and fund cuts. [Andy Schneider](#), of Georgetown Center for Children and Families, explains its impact, and how it threatens millions of people on Medicaid.

### **State level:**

- The new [2018 Kids Count state profile for Tennessee](#) was released. You can read the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's [press release](#) about this data for more information.

## JOIN US

**INSURE OUR KIDS!  
MEMPHIS TRAINING**

Church Health Community Room  
1350 Concourse Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38104  
Thursday, July 19  
11 AM-12 PM CT

**CONVENING PARTNERS**




INSUREOURKIDS.ORG 

[\*\*REGISTER HERE!\*\*](#)

**INSURE OUR KIDS  
ENROLLMENT TRAINING**



**THURSDAY, AUGUST 9**  
**11 AM CST**



**Insure Our Kids Enrollment Webinar  
Thursday, August 9  
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!\*\*](#)

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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.

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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  
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**STAY CONNECTED:**



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