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Children's Champion

• January 15, 2020 •
Tennessee Justice Center

ICYMI

- **2020 Census** - The 2020 Census is coming soon! Did you know that children under age 5 are among the most under-counted groups historically? Counting every adult and child in every community is vitally important at the local, state and federal levels to make sure planning and funding decisions are well-informed and adequate resources are provided for things like Medicaid, education and infrastructure needs. You can help make the Census count accurate by sharing information with your networks. The key messages are 1) Count all the young children in your home; 2) The census brings resources to your neighborhood; 3) The census is easy and convenient; and 4) The census is safe and secure.
 - You can find more outreach materials [here](#).
- **Public charge** - An appeals court ruled January 8th to continue blocking the harmful public charge rule from going into effect. This is great news, but the fight is not over yet. Families should continue to use the services for which they are eligible without fear. For information about calls and webinars about public charge, visit <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/events/>.
- **Recent policy developments from Governor Lee** - We commend Gov. Lee's decision to [continue accepting refugees](#) in Tennessee, as well as his decision to provide [paid family leave](#) to state employees. We believe both policies make our state a healthier, more stable place to live for children and families.

THE MORE YOU KNOW

Federal appeals court ruled Affordable Care Act (ACA) individual mandate unconstitutional

When the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) was implemented in 2014, approximately 20 million additional Americans received coverage in states that expanded Medicaid. In Tennessee, a state that did not expand Medicaid, TennCare and CoverKids enrollment [increased by 200,000](#). Now, those new enrollees are one step closer to losing their coverage after the court's decision in *Texas v. United States*, the lawsuit seeking to end the ACA.

[Read our recent blog post](#) to learn more about how repealing the ACA would affect children in Tennessee from Children's Health intern, Larkin Raynor.

In response to the ruling from the federal appeals court striking down the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Individual Mandate, Michele Johnson, Executive Director of the Tennessee Justice Center said the following:

"This ruling brings us one step closer to people with pre-existing conditions losing their health coverage and their families' financial security. The lawsuit by Tennessee and other states to get rid of protections for people with pre-existing conditions threatens to create chaos and fear. 1 in 3 adult Tennesseans has a pre-existing condition. We call on state leaders to pull out of this case, so that Tennessee families don't have to spend the holiday season worrying if a loved one will lose coverage."

[Email your officials and tell them to protect Tennesseans with pre-existing conditions](#)

LOOKING FORWARD

Federal updates

- **Medicaid "Fiscal Accountability" rule (MFAR)** - We are very concerned by a federal rule that could completely change how states fund Medicaid. If finalized, the rule would harm Medicaid beneficiaries, including children and families, as well as their health care providers, in most states. You can read more [here](#).

State updates

- **Tennessee state legislative session began Tuesday, January 14.** We will be sharing our legislative efforts, including Days on the Hill and other ways to get involved over the next few months. You can [sign up](#) to join our Healthcare Advocacy email list to receive more frequent updates and ways to take action. We look to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) for a comprehensive look at all legislative activity that affects children. You can sign up for their email list [here](#).

JOIN US

Infant & Maternal Mortality Strategy Call

Wednesday, January 22
12 PM CT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[Tennessee ranks 42nd in maternal mortality and 39th in infant mortality](#). TJC is working to find a legislative solution to address the crisis in our state that makes women and infants more likely to die before the child's first birthday. If you have insights or experiences related to this issue, please [click here to register](#) and join our call next Wednesday, January 22 at Noon CT.

If you cannot make the call but have ideas, please email Kinika at kyoung@tnjustice.org.

Where Hunger Meets Housing: The Role of a WIC Program in a Housing Crisis

Thursday, January 30
2 pm CT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Senior Hunger and SNAP

Thursday, February 6
2 pm CT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Children's Health & SNAP Benefits

Thursday, February 13
2 pm CT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Successful Reentry Requires Food Security: How SNAP & WIC Can Help

Thursday, March 5
2 pm CT

[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
Tennessee Justice Center

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Stay connected:



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