



*Quick Links:*

[Website](#) | [Donate](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

# Children's Champion

• March 25, 2020 •  
Tennessee Justice Center

## THE MORE YOU KNOW

### COVID-19 Updates

As Tennessee weathers the crises that have impacted and continue to affect our state, our main priority is the safety of our staff and our current and future clients. The economic impact of the tornadoes that struck Tennessee this month and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have brought to light the major shortcomings of our health safety net.

With the support of the Tennessee Healthcare Association, Tennessee Disability Coalition and Council on Aging of Middle TN, TJC penned a letter to TennCare requesting a temporary pause for CHOICES redeterminations in the wake of COVID-19 in accordance with CMS guidelines. Through our advocacy and the help of our partners, TennCare agreed to temporarily pause CHOICES redeterminations during this public health emergency.

[Read the letter sent to TennCare](#)

[Read TennCare's response](#)

During this time, we are asking TennCare to commit to pausing terminations for all enrollees. Tennessee experienced the largest drop in insured people in 2018. To continue to kick people off of TennCare while we are facing a pandemic is unconscionable.

[Urge leaders to pause TennCare terminations](#)

Along with Tennessee Disability Coalition, National Association of Social Workers – Tennessee Chapter, United Ways of Tennessee, Tennessee After School Network, Urban Child Institute, and ACE Awareness Foundation, TJC sent TANF spending guiding principles to Governor Lee and DHS Commissioner Barnes in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

[Read the letter](#)

Congress has also passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. It includes an expansion of food assistance, paid sick leave for over 80 million workers, increased federal matching rate for state Medicaid programs, and unemployment aid to states.

[Learn more about how the Families First Coronavirus Response Act benefits children and families](#)

We are closely monitoring federal, state and local legislative and administrative action in response to this pandemic. Please follow along for up-to-date information from TJC about COVID-19 in Tennessee by visiting our [COVID-19 Updates page](#). Follow [our Twitter channel](#) for the latest news about coronavirus in Tennessee and easy action you can take to inspire state leaders to do the right thing.



**Join us for our #ExpandMedicaidTN Tweetstorm this Friday, March 27!** We are sending tweets to Governor Bill Lee all day on Friday asking him to expand Medicaid to keep hospitals open and provide coverage to Tennesseans who are uninsured. You can use our easy tool at <https://www.tnjustice.org/tweet-gov-lee-covid-19/> or tweet SAFETN to 52886.

## ICYMI

- **New guest blog post - [Coming Soon to Tennessee: Katie Beckett Waiver Program](#)** by Donna DeStefano, Assistant Executive Director, Tennessee Disability Coalition.
  - If your organization is interested in contributing to our children's health blog, [the Children's Chat](#), please reply to this email.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Federal updates

- **Get Counted! 2020 Census**

The 2020 Census is here, and we want you to know how to ensure that everyone gets counted. Reporting is safe, easy, and will help to secure vital resources for your community. More than \$900 billion per year in federal funding is allocated based on the Census count, including funding for Medicaid and CHIP, WIC, and schools. Federal funds make up about 40% of the state budget in Tennessee, and undercounting in the 2010 Census equaled a loss of \$1,091 per person in our state! Let's #ShapeOurFuture by ensuring a #CompleteCount.

Important 2020 Census COVID19 Update: The self-reporting deadline for the census has been extended from July to August 14.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO RESPOND TO THE CENSUS](#)

### State updates

- **The Tennessee state legislature is on recess until June 1**

Stay tuned to find out what bills the Tennessee State Legislature will pursue in response to COVID-19. We hope they will take up Medicaid expansion.

[Email the Governor and your legislators and ask them to expand Medicaid](#)

## JOIN US



Join us for our #ExpandMedicaidTN Tweetstorm this Friday, March 27! We are sending tweets to Governor Bill Lee all day on Friday asking him to expand Medicaid to keep hospitals open and provide coverage to Tennesseans who are uninsured. You can use our easy tool at <https://www.tnjustice.org/tweet-gov-lee-covid-19/> or tweet SAFETN to 52886.

### POSTPONED - Middle Tennessee Anti-Hunger Meeting 2020

Anyone who is registered will automatically be registered for the new date and we will send updated information to all who are registered. [Please register here](#) if you would like to join us and to stay updated on meeting details. TJC will be in touch soon about the rescheduled meeting.

### Successful Re-Entry Requires Food Security

Webinar  
Monday, March 30  
1 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

---

[DONATE](#)

---

**Stay connected:**



Tennessee Justice Center  
211 7th Ave N  
Suite 100  
Nashville, TN 37219  
United States

[outreach@tnjustice.org](mailto:outreach@tnjustice.org) | 615-255-0331 | <https://www.tnjustice.org>

[Update your subscriptions](#)

{{if IsSentByTargetedEmail}}(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)Unsubscribe{{end}}

{{Disclaimer}}