What you can't miss from this newsletter:

- Advancing Health Equity webinar tomorrow 4/23 at 11 AM CT
- #ExpandMedicaidTN comment storm on Gov. Lee's Facebook Live press briefing tomorrow 4/23 at 3 PM CT

THE MORE YOU KNOW

COVID-19 Updates

TJC is working overtime to help as many people as we can through our stellar casework team, legal experts, and network of friends and advocates. In addition to our COVID-19 webpage, we have many resources for people who are seeking services, who have lost jobs or income, and need information about what their options are on our Find Assistance page: https://www.tnjustice.org/find-assistance/ We are constantly updating it with the latest information, and we hope you find it helpful to you and those you serve.

Health coverage is more important now than ever. Our ultimate goal is that every person who needs testing and treatment is able to get it without being turned away or fear of financial ruin. We have updated our Insure Our Kids communications toolkit with images, videos, and sample social media posts. It's important that families who have lost employer-sponsored insurance know that almost every child in the state qualifies for free or low-cost health insurance.
While we fight every day to connect people to the services and benefits that they need to thrive, we are also fighting for access for those who have been marginalized by systemic barriers.

Please join us for a #ExpandMedicaidTN Facebook storm on Thursday, April 23 at 3 PM CT! Go to this link to Gov. Lee’s FB profile where the live event is hosted: https://www.facebook.com/GovBillLee/ or tune into TJC’s Facebook at 3 PM. Don't forget to use our hashtag #ExpandMedicaidTN!

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.

ICYMI

- **Free child care for essential workers** - Tennessee essential workers can get free child care during Tennessee’s State of Emergency thanks to a partnership with the YMCA! More details on this excellent community service can be found here.
- **Sign-on letter to state leaders** - TJC and 25 other organizations sent a letter to state leaders with policy recommendations to minimize the social and economic impacts of the pandemic on the communities that we serve. Read the letter.
- **TJC files a class action lawsuit to reinstate Tennesseans wrongfully terminated from TennCare** - We wouldn’t look away when thousands of Tennesseans lost the ability to get the care that they need because of TennCare’s defective process and bureaucratic errors. We are taking action on behalf of our clients and the thousands like them across the state to make sure that everyone who was wrongfully terminated in the last year gets reinstated so they have peace of mind and financial security during this time. Read more about the lawsuit here.
- **Sign-on opportunity for recommendations for next congressional funding package** - Read Families USA's letter and sign-on here. The deadline to sign on is April 23 at 9 am CT.
- **2020 U.S. Census** - The 2020 Census began in mid-March, 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. Click here to learn more.

LOOKING FORWARD

Federal updates

- **Policy recommendations for federal legislation** - Congress is working hard to get us through this crisis. We have looked to federal advocates like ZERO TO THREE to keep us up to date on federal legislation and actions. To read their policy recommendations and find out ways to take action on behalf of kids, click here.

State updates

- **State-reported demographic data show disparity** - So far there are over 7000 reported cases of the coronavirus and over 150 deaths. There remains a tremendous equity gap in mortality rates in Tennessee. Although African Americans account for 16% of TN population, they represent 32% of COVID-19 deaths. For more information about what the
Advancing Health Equity Through Medicaid: A Call to Action to Prevent the Next Public Health Crisis

Webinar
Thursday, April 23
11 AM CT

REGISTER HERE

Join us and panelist Freida Outlaw, PhD, RN, APRN, FAAN, tomorrow to learn about the underlying reasons for the racial disparities evident during the #COVID19 pandemic, with black people becoming sicker and dying at disproportionately higher rates.

Mother's Day Virtual Lunch
Friday, May 1
12 PM CT

Every year, the Tennessee Justice Center recognizes the greatest champions of healthy families and whole communities in our state. This year we are continuing in the tradition and honoring five heroes who have spent their lives advocating for mothers and their children. These justice warriors embody a commitment to the same mission that TJC has spent 24 years believing that
all Tennesseans have value and dignity and that our laws, policies, and programs should be protected and improved to reflect these shared beliefs.

Beginning April 27, we will be sharing the stories of our 2020 honorees and recognizing their induction into our Hall of Fame. Then, on May 1 at noon CST, make your favorite lunchtime meal and join us online for a live virtual gathering, which will allow us to raise the critical funds needed to continue and expand our work for families from Memphis to Mountain City. During this historically scary and chaotic time, our goal for the week is to inspire hope and light for our community. Join us in celebrating these righteous beacons of hope and change, all while helping us in achieving our ultimate goal of dignity and opportunity for all.

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](image.jpg)

Kinika Young  
Senior Director of Health Policy and Advocacy  
Tennessee Justice Center

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Stay connected:

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