Improving Healthcare Coverage Access and Enrollment for Mixed-Status Families

Children’s Chat Vlog Series

Other Coverage Options

- **CoverKids**: coverage for pregnancy and 60 days postpartum regardless of citizenship
- **Emergency Medical Services**: covers life-saving procedures for individuals unable to get TennCare due to citizenship
- **Children’s Special Services**: coverage for low-income children under 21 who have special health care needs

The United States has a growing immigrant population. One in four children have an immigrant parent. **5% of children with US citizen parents in 2019 were uninsured**, Uninsured rates increase to 9% for children with a
noncitizen parent, 21% for children with green cards/Lawfully Permanent Residents (LPRs), and all the way up to 35% for undocumented children. Immigration status can be a barrier and has been shown to affect the ability to participate in health insurance options.

The barriers to accessing healthcare disproportionately affect Latino children. For Latino Children, 95% are citizens and about half have noncitizen parents. However, almost two-thirds of the uninsured Latino children in the US are in mixed status families, meaning some family members in the household are citizens and some are not. Despite insurance options being available for these children, fear and miscommunication may keep them from accessing available resources. In Tennessee, 5% of children were uninsured in 2019. This percentage skyrockets to 17.7%-the third highest of all states-among Latino children. This disparity should not exist since many of these children are eligible for coverage. TJC started the Insure Our Kids campaign in 2017 to help get all eligible children enrolled in TennCare and CoverKids.

Healthcare Coverage Options for Mixed-Status Families in Tennessee

- TennCare (Medicaid) and CoverKids (CHIP)
- Federal Marketplace
- Private insurance
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Children’s Special Services (CSS)
- Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS)

How TN Can Increase Access and Enrollment for Non-Citizen and Mixed-Status Families

- Remove five-year bar
- Adopt Cover All Kids Legislation
- Combat the Chilling Effect

Check out the vlog and learn more about how we can increase healthcare coverage enrollment and access for mixed-status families

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Clearing The Air About Public Charge Webinar

Last week, we hosted a webinar with the Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Right Coalition and Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to outline the history of public charge and discuss the importance of safety net program. View the Recording.
Recent News

- In Tennessee, health insurance should not be a rare commodity, expand Medicaid now | Opinion
- Out of necessity: TennCare’s claims denial process is far stricter than the national average
- Katie Beckett program for kids with disabilities falls short in first year
- Federal Child Tax Credit program boosts thousands in Tennessee

Tennessee’s Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap

The Prenatal-To-3 State Policy Roadmap is an annual policy guide produced by the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at The University of Texas at Austin that provides states with actionable policy solutions to improve overall outcomes for young children. In 2021, Tennessee has not adopted or fully implemented any of the recommended state policies or made substantial progress towards implementing the effective strategies to improve child outcomes. Read more of Tennessee’s Roadmap.
Federal Marketplace Opens November 1st

Open enrollment for the ACA Marketplace starts November 1st and ends on January 15, 2022. This is an opportunity for families to enroll in a new health insurance plan or renew their current healthcare plan. Families can apply or change their coverage through healthcare.gov.

New Department of Health Flyer
FEDERAL UPDATES

Public Health Emergency Extended to January 2022

Since March 18, 2020, there has been a disenrollment freeze on Medicaid. For states to receive a 6.2% FMAP (Federal Medial Assistance Percentage) bump outlined in the Families First Coronavirus Act they had to agree to some requirements. This included the maintenance of effort (MOE) which prevents states from disenrolling individuals from Medicaid during the public health emergency (PHE). It also prevents states from adding new restrictive eligibility or enrollment requirements. As of October 15, the PHE has been extended to January 2022. To prevent a repeat of 2018 and large disenrollment crisis when the PHE ends, Tennessee must adopt policies such as 12-month continuous eligibility, presumptive eligibility, and express lane eligibility to ensure children stay covered. 

Click here if your organization would like to sign onto a letter urging TN leaders to streamline TennCare and CoverKids enrollment.

Build Back Better Act
The **Build Back Better Act** is a human infrastructure plan which emerged in the House of Representatives. It makes critical, historic investments in families and children to address many of the nation’s long-standing problems, including persistent racial disparities. It will build toward a more equitable economy where everyone can reach their full potential. The target timeframe is October 31st for the House and Senate to pass the bill.

It includes relatively low-cost, proven policies that will improve maternal and child health, including continuous coverage for children with Medicaid and CHIP health insurance, requiring states to extend postpartum coverage to 12 months following pregnancy, and permanently funding CHIP. These provisions would help mitigate the rising uninsured rate of children nationwide. As Congress keeps debating on the reconciliation package this week, they must keep these provisions intact—our kids and families are counting on it.

**Email Marsha Blackburn and other members of Congress and tell them to support families by making CHIP, Medicaid postpartum coverage extension, and the increased child tax credit permanent.**

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**TN UPDATES**

**Changes to Retroactive Coverage**

This past summer, an update was made to TennCare eligibility policies. The changes were made to implement retroactive coverage for children and pregnant women. Eligible individuals can be covered up to 3 months prior to the date of application as of July 1, 2021. To get the retroactive coverage, families must prove they met the TennCare eligibility requirements during the previous three months AND inform TennCare they received a qualifying medical service during the period. This is great news for people who are newly enrolling in TennCare and will help prevent medical debt. View the TennCare eligibility policies [here](#).

**TJC’s New SNAP Outreach Toolkit**

The pandemic has increased food insecurity in Tennessee—hitting children and families particularly hard. SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps) is an important anti-hunger program that provides money to families to help buy groceries.

Use this outreach toolkit to connect families to this lifesaving program. The SNAP outreach toolkit for schools includes resources like sample social media posts and captions, a short informational video, a flyer to send home in backpacks, and more! Explore the toolkit below and help connect parents with eligible children to SNAP today! [Access the Toolkit Here!](#)

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**JOIN US**
TJC's 25th Anniversary Gala
Saturday, October 23
6:30pm - 9:00pm

REGISTER

Medicaid Eligibility Master Class - A Virtual Training Event

Mastering the Red Tape Maze of Medicaid
Hosted by Tennessee Justice Center
October 26-27, 2021

REGISTER

Food Assistance for Immigrants and Refugees
Thursday, October 28
11am - 12pm CST
Free Webinar

REGISTER
Hunger and Homelessness
Friday, November 15
1pm - 2pm CST
Free Webinar
REGISTER

How ECF CHOICES Can Help Your Family
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
11 am- 12 pm CST
Free Webinar
REGISTER

Throwing a Fit for Health Justice: A Statewide Virtual Rally
Saturday, November 20, 2021
10 am- 11 am CST
Free Webinar
REGISTER
Vaccine Info Session
Thursday, December 2nd
11 AM-12 PM CST
Free Webinar

REGISTER

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