



CHILDREN'S HEALTH COVERAGE COALITION

FORMERLY THE CHIP COALITION

2021 Legislative Priorities

When children have health coverage and can get the preventive and primary care they need, studies show that they not only remain healthier, but also perform better in school, putting them on a path towards academic and economic success. Moreover, when they do get sick or injured, they are less likely to use costlier emergency departments to obtain care more appropriately treated elsewhere. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many longstanding Texas challenges, such as the state's uninsured rate and the need for mental health support for children and parents. As organizations dedicated to improving children's health, the Children's Health Care Coalition (CHCC) is committed to reducing the number of uninsured children in order to improve health outcomes for them and their families during the pandemic and beyond. Achieving these goals will require investing sufficient resources into Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which together are essential to Texas' efforts to support opportunity and success for all children.

Protect Health Care From Budget Cuts

As the state weathers the ongoing pandemic, which has contributed to a rise in the number of uninsured, Texas must prioritize funding for state health programs, provider networks, and eligibility systems. CHCC supports investments in:

- Medicaid, CHIP, Early Childhood Intervention (ECI), women's health programs;
- eligibility workers and systems that help eligible Texas kids and families sign up for benefits; and
- the Medicaid and CHIP provider network.

Promote Virtual Care Innovations

Maintain authority and payment parity for evidence-informed telehealth and telemedicine flexibilities implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, including services provided through audio-only telephone.

Enhance Health Coverage for Kids, Moms, and Families

- Provide 12 months continuous eligibility for children in Medicaid.
- Extend meaningful health coverage for uninsured, low-wage adults.
- Extend comprehensive Medicaid coverage for eligible mothers from 60 days to 12 months after pregnancy.

Improve Outreach and Supports to Help Eligible Texans Get and Stay Covered

- Revitalize the state's marketing, outreach, and application assistance efforts to connect more eligible children and moms to health coverage.
- Fund a robust outreach campaign to mixed-immigration-status families to reach children who are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.
- Align the state's health insurance outreach with the realities of COVID-19 and remove barriers to remote enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP.

The Children's Health Coverage Coalition (CHCC) is dedicated to ensuring the health and well-being of Texas children and families. The CHC Coalition engages in public education and advocacy, working closely with state agencies and the Texas Legislature on behalf of children and their families.

Address Urgent Unmet Needs through Texas' COVID Response

- Undertake robust outreach to families to help reverse the pandemic-related declines in necessary in-person care, including prenatal services and children's check-ups, treatment, and immunizations.
- Establish clear, consistent statewide guidance for all Texans on COVID-19 testing access and costs.
- Ensure all Medicaid-funded home health workers and Personal Attendants have access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and neither beneficiaries nor attendants must purchase with their personal funds.

Children's Defense Fund - Texas

Children's Hospital Association of Texas

Every Texan

Feeding Texas

League of Women Voters of Texas

Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.

NAMI Texas

National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter

PediPlace

Texans Care for Children

Texas Academy of Family Physicians

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

Texas Association of Community Health Plans

Texas Hospital Association

Texas Medical Association

Texas Parent to Parent

Texas Pediatric Society

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

United Ways of Texas

Young Invincibles