



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

Cutting Through the Maze: Where Are We Now?

The Maze: One Year Later

In April 2009, Colorado Covering Kids and Families (CKF) issued a report entitled [*The Maze: The Barriers that Keep Colorado's Eligible Children and Families Out of Medicaid and CHP+ and Recommendations to Create a Direct Path to Enrollment*](#), offering a comprehensive look at the challenges facing eligible children and families in securing and retaining Medicaid or Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) coverage. The report identified more than 40 barriers standing between eligible Coloradans and health coverage, and it made more than 20 specific recommendations to address these barriers.

CKF is excited to release [*An Update on the Progress to Create a Direct Path to enrollment for Colorado's Eligible Children and Families in Medicaid and CHP+*](#) which provides a snapshot in time of the progress made to implement the specific recommendations from the original report. It also offers opportunities to become part of the effort to eliminate the barriers that keep so many Colorado kids and families uninsured. The update is an interactive document that allows the reader to hone in on areas of interest by clicking on specific recommendations or opportunities to get involved. The update is located on the new landing page on CKF's website, home to all things related to *The Maze*, found at <http://cchn.org/ckf/maze.php>.

Top Two Successes that Address Maze Recommendations

- 1) The passage of House Bill 09-1293
 - Effective May 1, 2010, Medicaid expanded coverage for parents with children already on Medicaid from 60% to 100% of the federal poverty level.
 - Allows for 12 months continuous eligibility for children on Medicaid, beginning in 2012.
- 2) The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) secured \$43 million in funding to increase access to health care, reduce cost-shifting, and improve the system including an online application and electronic interfaces to meet verification requirements.

Top Two Opportunities That Would Benefit Families Most

- 1) Improvements to the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS), the computer system that determines eligibility for the state's public assistance programs, supported by policy changes that better coordinate the programs and improve access to health coverage.
- 2) Simplify verification requirements by implementing administrative and electronic verification of citizenship and identity documents.

Get Involved

- 1) Thank You Letter Templates
 - Thank your [Legislators](#), [Governor Ritter](#), and [HCPF](#) for progress made in the past year.
- 2) Help Families Directly
 - Become a Presumptive Eligibility, [Certified Application Assistance](#), or Medical Assistance Site.
- 3) Funding Opportunities (check out slide 42 in the [update](#) for more information)
 - For schools, providers, or community organizations.
- 4) Spread the word
 - Link to the [Maze update](#) or [CKF's new web page](#) for all resources related to the *Maze* in your organization's newsletter, blog, website, or on Twitter or Facebook.