



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

Cutting Through the Maze: How CKF Partners Can Help

The Maze

For families, local outreach sites, and county and state administrators, Colorado's Medicaid and CHP+ eligibility system is a maze of complicated rules and processes. A confusing application form, burdensome documentation requirements and unnecessary administrative processes keep many eligible families from obtaining coverage. As a result, nearly 80,000 uninsured children who are already eligible for Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) remain uninsured. Colorado deserves a better system that ensures all eligible children have access to the health care services that keep them healthy and ready to learn.

Covering Kids and Families' (CKF) new report, "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," explores more than 40 barriers that create Colorado's complicated eligibility maze. In the report, CKF provides 20 concrete recommendations for legislative and administrative policy reforms to simplify Colorado's Medicaid and CHP+ eligibility system, including improvements that can be implemented in the next year.

Top Priorities to Enroll Eligible Kids and Families

- Keep Eligible Kids Covered – Give parents the option to renew coverage for children who are already eligible by phone or online to avoid problems and delays
- Leverage Community Partnerships – Partner with and support community-based organizations like clinics, schools, and churches that already have relationships with the families of uninsured children
- Simplify and Standardize Income Rules – Create uniform income rules so parents can deduct costs like child care and out-of-pocket medical expenses from family income when determining a child's eligibility for Medicaid, as they currently can for CHP+
- Fix the Computers – Fund repairs to the eligibility computer system to give Colorado families accurate and timely processing rates
- Get the Data – Gather data on where uninsured children live, why applications are denied, and why eligible children lose coverage, to prioritize other reform options that will deliver maximum return for children and taxpayers

What Can You Do?

- Share Your Story – Families across Colorado have their own experiences enrolling into Medicaid and CHP+. Sharing these stories can make a real difference by putting a human face on the issue. To share your story or the story of a family you work with, please [submit this form](#). The information on this form is kept strictly confidential and only shared with the permission of the family. If a family prefers, they will not be identified personally.
- Sign onto CKF Letter – Support CKF's recommendations by having your organization sign-onto CKF's letter to the decision-makers that can make these changes happen now. Sign-on opportunities will be shared with all CKF coalition members and partners in the near future.

The full report can be downloaded at: http://www.cchn.org/ckf/pdf/CKF_Report_The_Maze_April_2009.pdf