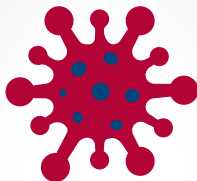





MEDICAID IS ESSENTIAL IN OUR CHILDREN’S RECOVERY

By any number of measures, children have experienced disruptions to the structures that we know support healthy development, and children of color, as well as families in poverty, have been most impacted. According to [UNESCO’s Global Education Coalition](#), 77 million American students have endured partial or total school closures due to COVID-19, and as of April 2021, over [40 percent of children](#) are still not experiencing in-person learning. As of October 2020, the percent of U.S. households with children who are facing hunger doubled from 14 percent to 28 percent, based on data from [experts from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#), and the US Department of Agriculture found that more than 1 in 4 Black and Hispanic children experienced food insufficiency¹ in March 2021.

Challenges For American Children

 <p>77 million American students have endured partial or total school closures due to COVID-19</p>	<p>1 in 4 Black and Hispanic children experienced food insufficiency in March 2021</p> 	 <p>More than 40% of children are still not experiencing in-person learning</p>	<p>28% of U.S. households with children are facing hunger, as of October 2020</p> 
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Fortunately, kids are extraordinarily resilient.

Human bodies and minds are built to change, adapt, grow, and recover from all that they experience – good and bad – early in life. With appropriate and effective interventions and support from across the spectrum of systems that surround children and families, we can mitigate the long-lasting impacts of trauma from COVID-related disruptions.

Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) will be essential to the resilience of the nation’s children as we emerge from the pandemic. Together, Medicaid and CHIP cover more than 37 million, or 2 in every 5, American children.² This report provides specific, actionable steps that Medicaid and CHIP programs can take now – and in the coming months – to improve the trajectory for these children.

¹ Food insufficiency means a household did not have enough food to eat sometimes or often in the last 7 days.

² CMS. November 2020 Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment Data Highlights, Kaiser Family Foundation. Health Insurance Coverage of Children 0-18 2019.

Short-term response opportunities.

These are options Medicaid programs can consider today to ensure children and their caregivers are supported as we emerge from the pandemic. They build on the myriad ways that states pivoted and responded to the needs of children and families throughout the pandemic. For example, as a starting point, Medicaid leaders can examine Medicaid data and external data to understand the current realities for children and families. They can then launch a “sprint” team to respond to those realities and prepare for a return to daycare, school, and other activities in the fall.

Opportunities to transform children’s healthcare delivery.

Medicaid programs can also use the disruption in the healthcare system to improve the way we deliver care for children and families. These options for long-term transformation address the child by supporting healthy development; address the family by promoting healthy and stable families; and address the system by advancing integration across child-serving programs.



37 million
(2 out of 5) American
children are covered by
Medicaid and CHIP

“We have an historic opportunity to not just mitigate the impact of the trauma endured by millions of children, but to create stronger systems of care.”

Medicaid alone cannot solve the challenge of getting kids back on track after this public health crisis, but it can and must be a big part of the solution. We have an historic opportunity to not just mitigate the impact of the trauma endured by millions of children, but to create stronger systems of care that will foster the success of those children in the years to come. This is not an aspirational vision, but a critical imperative that we must embrace, together.