



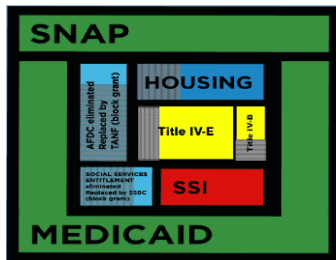
Children's Medicaid in Colorado



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Medicaid is a vital part of the safety net

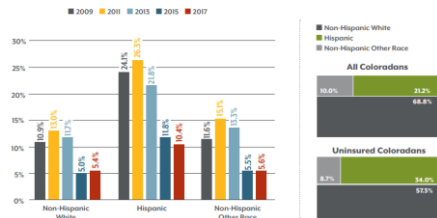


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Disparities in coverage persist



Race/Ethnicity Gaps Narrow; Hispanics Still Have Highest Uninsured Rate



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3 Source: Colorado Health Institute, 2017 CHAS.

Medicaid & Health Equity



- Medicaid is an important source of coverage for communities of color that face economic insecurity due to discriminatory policies and practices.
- Medicaid and CHIP play an especially important role for children of color, whose families are more likely to be low-income compared to whites.
- Nationally, Medicaid and CHIP cover more than half of Hispanic children (52%) and black children (56%)
- Work is still needed to ensure Medicaid is serving everyone it should!

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Medicaid Overview



- The federal government and the states partner to fund and set policy for the program
- Once a state chooses to participate in the Medicaid program, it must follow federal requirements for the program.
- Medicaid is an entitlement: Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements for Medicaid are entitled to covered services that are “medically necessary.”
- Medicaid recipients are entitled to due process when services are denied or reduced, which means they are entitled to **notice** prior to loss or reduction of benefits and access to a **fair hearing**.

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Role of CMS & the States



- Federal law and regulation (administered by CMS) specify core requirements all states must meet to receive federal funding
- Within federal guidance, states define how they will run their program:
 - State laws and regulations;
 - State budget authority and appropriations
 - Medicaid State Plan; and
 - Waivers
- Subject to review/approval by CMS, states have flexibility regarding eligibility, benefits, provider payments, delivery systems and other aspect of their programs
- Each state must have a “single state agency” that is responsible for the administration of its Medicaid program.
- **The buck stops with the state agency.**

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Medicaid State Plan



- Colorado's State Plan describes its program, including mandatory and optional services
- Among other things, each State Plan sets out:
 - Groups of individuals to be covered
 - Services to be provided
 - Methodologies for providers to be reimbursed; and
 - Administrative activities
- **HOWEVER, all children's services that can be covered must be covered, whether or not included in the State Plan.**

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Medicaid Eligibility for Children in FC: Categorically eligible groups



Children and youth who receive Title IV-E payments are categorically eligible for Medicaid in every state. This includes:

- Children and youth who receive title IV-E foster care maintenance payments
- Children and youth who receive title IV-E guardianship assistance program (GAP) payments
- Children and youth subject to a title IV-E adoption assistance agreement (i.e. for children or youth with special needs, for whom adoption might not be feasible without the adoption assistance agreement)
- Children of a minor parent or youth over age 18 in foster care.

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Medicaid Eligibility for Children in FC: other eligible groups



Children who are not categorically eligible are often eligible based on household income:

- Children under age 19 in households with income under 142 FPL are income-eligible
- Children placed outside the home who are not claimed as a tax dependent are households of 1, and typically income-eligible

Family size	Monthly maximum
1	1,437
2	1,948
3	2,459
4	2,971

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Medicaid eligibility for children in kinship placements



Kinship care has been shown to involve fewer placements and more contact with birth family. However,

- **just 42% of kinship placements receive Medicaid services, though nearly 100% are eligible.**

10 Source: Sakai C, Lin H, Flores G. Health Outcomes and Family Services in Kinship Care: Analysis of a Nat'l Sample of Children in the Child Welfare System. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2011 Feb; 165(2): 159-65

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Immigrant Eligibility



While undocumented immigrants are not eligible for Medicaid or CHP+, noncitizens that meet the income and other eligibility requirements may qualify for Medicaid or CHP+

- Colorado has taken federal options to provide Medicaid to many more "lawfully present" pregnant women and children – i.e. to those with a variety of statuses, including some temporary ones
- For pregnant women and children seeking Medicaid and CHP+, Colorado opted in 2015 to remove the "5-year bar" to coverage to individuals who are "lawfully present."

NOTE: some counties/agencies are not aware of this change!

- Many adult statuses are not subject to the 5-year bar, including asylees, refugees, trafficking victims, veteran families

11 See <https://www.coloradohealth.org/sites/default/files/documents/2017-01/Immigrant%20Eligibility.pdf>

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Medicaid Services for Children: EPSDT is robust



The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment benefit, or EPSDT, is more robust than the Medicaid benefit for adults and is designed to assure that children receive early detection and care, so that health problems are averted or diagnosed and treated as early as possible.

Children and youth under 21 are eligible for **any services** that fit within the categories listed in § 1905(a) of the Medicaid Act, whether or not Colorado included those services in the State Plan. If a service *can* be covered and is medically necessary, it *must* be covered.

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EPSDT is flexible



Children and youth who are enrolled in Medicaid are entitled to all the services that are medically necessary;

- Medical necessity is defined in state rules at 10 CCR 2505-10 §§ 8.076.1.8 and at 8.280.4.E.
 - A service is medically necessary if it “will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent, diagnose, cure, correct, reduce or ameliorate” pain and suffering or effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability;
 - Services may also be medically necessary if they can assist the client to achieve maximum functional capacity in performing an Activity of Daily Living.
- Hard caps or limits on coverage, such as limits to replacement eyeglasses or dollar caps for specific services, are not permitted for children.

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EPSDT services



- Benefits under EPSDT include:
 - **Screening services**, including a comprehensive health and developmental history, an unclothed physical, appropriate immunizations, lab tests (including lead level assessment), and health education. If a child needs screening more frequently than is recommended for the general population, EPSDT can cover that
 - **Vision, dental and hearing services**; including some orthodontic services
 - Physician services, hospital services
 - X-rays, clinics, lab services;
 - Prescription drugs;
 - Case management;
 - Rehabilitation (both physical and psychosocial).

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Medicaid Benefits for Children: EPSDT and beyond



Children with disabilities have access to services:

- Home health, including certified nurse aide services, personal care, OT, PT and speech, and skilled nursing services.
- Waiver services, for medically fragile children and those with developmental disabilities, if child meets specific criteria

All children have access to transportation services:

- It must be the most cost effective method for meeting the client's medical needs.

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Medicaid and Behavioral Health



Children with behavioral, mental health and substance use issues have access to services:

- Screenings for autism, depression, and substance use risk;
- Outpatient, IOP and day treatment for MH and SUD needs, through Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs)
- Inpatient treatment and residential treatment for SUD (EPSDT)
- Targeted case management (through CCBs, for those with I/DD diagnoses)
- Inpatient treatment for MH and SUD needs, through fee-for-service Medicaid (EPSDT)
- ABA and other behavioral therapies, through fee-for-service Medicaid (EPSDT).

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Disability Services and Waivers



- Waivers allow states to “waive” certain Medicaid requirements including state-wideness, freedom of choice, and comparability, but allow them to provide services not available in the standard Medicaid program
- Colorado offers four waivers specific to children. All require that the child qualify for nursing facility or hospital level of care, or ICF level of care
 - Children with Life-Limiting Illness
 - Children’s Extensive Services
 - Children’s Home and Community Based Services
 - Children’s Habilitative Residential Program

17 See <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/CO%20HCS%20Children%20Waiver%20Chart-June%202018.pdf>

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Questions



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