



Access to Care

WHEREAS, health insurance coverage is the first step to ensure children address health concerns as early as possible; and

WHEREAS, the period before kindergarten is when children experience rapid brain development and physical growth, making this a critical timeframe to address any developmental or health conditions before they intensify into greater challenges¹; and

WHEREAS, health insurance is also linked to better health, educational and economic outcomes in adulthood²; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of children are insured under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), compared with employer-sponsored insurance, and

WHEREAS, Medicaid and CHIP also serve as the main source of health coverage for children from low-income families³; and

WHEREAS, the proportion of uninsured children nationwide remains at 4-5% since 2015⁴ and;

WHEREAS, workforce shortages in pediatric specialty care and the lack of network adequacy, or the ability of a health insurance plan to provide access to in-network providers, puts children and their families at financial risk and threaten children's long-term quality of life⁵; and

¹ Burak E. Promoting Young Children's Healthy Development in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, October 2018. available at <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/10/17/promoting-young-childrens-healthy-development-in-medicaid-and-the-childrens-health-insurance-program-chip/>.

² Wagnerman K, Chester A, Alker J. Medicaid is a Smart Investment in Children. Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, March 2017: <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/MedicaidSmartInvestment.pdf>.

³ Kaiser Family Foundation. Monthly Child Enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP. October 2019: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/total-medicaid-and-chip-child-enrollment/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

⁴ Cohen, R, Terlizzi, E, Martinez, M. (2018). Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 2018. National Center for Health Statistics. 20

⁵ Colvin J, Hall M, Thurm C, Bettenhausen J, Gottlieb L, Shah S, Fieldston E, Goldin A, Melzer S, Conway P, Chung P. (2018). Hypothetical Network Adequacy Schemes for Children Fail To Ensure Patients' Access To In-Network Children's Hospital. Health Affairs. 37. 873-880. 10.1377/hlthaff.2017.1339.



WHEREAS, an increasing number of community providers are not taking Medicaid and CHIP, creating another barrier to access for low income families⁶; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid and CHIP reimbursements are on average 72% of the average Medicare payment and 64% of the average commercial insurance payment.⁷

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago will engage in policies and programs that support increased, continuous, and comprehensive health coverage for children; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago will engage in policies and programs that support network adequacy standards for health insurance that include a full range of pediatric primary, specialty and subspecialty providers who are capable of providing services for all levels of complexity; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago will engage in policies and programs that support the adequate reimbursement of pediatric physicians and specialists in the care of children.

⁶ Holgash, K, Heberlein, M. (January 2019). Physician Acceptance of New Medicaid Patients. Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission. [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Physician-Acceptance-of-New-Medicaid-Patients.pdf>

⁷ American Academy of Pediatrics. Pediatrician Participation in Medicaid and CHIP: National and State Reports. September 2012 <https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/Research/pediatrician-surveys/Pages/Pediatrician-Participation-in-Medicaid-and-CHIP-National-and-State-Reports.aspx>