

Health Care Reform in California & Issues in Children's Coverage

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About Children Now

Children Now is the leading, nonpartisan, multi-issue research, policy development, and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting children's health and education in California

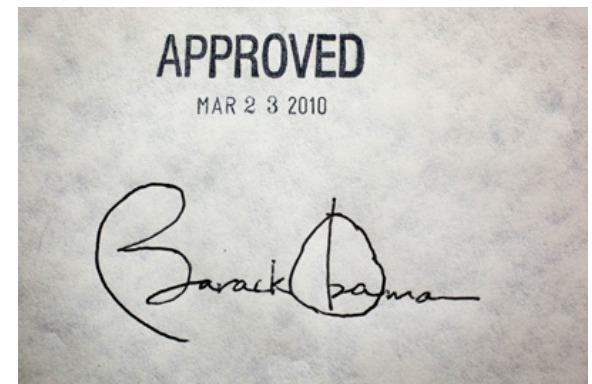
CH1LDREN NOW

Children Now finds common ground among influential opinion leaders, interest groups and policymakers, who together can develop and drive socially innovative, “win-win” approaches to helping all children achieve their full potential.

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Federal Health Reform: Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- Health reform legislation jointly, referred to as the ACA: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148), and Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-152).
- Signed into law by President Obama on March 23, 2010
- On June 28, 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the ACA constitutional, with one exception around requiring states to expand Medicaid to new populations



ACA and California

“You talk about Obamacare, we are so far out on Obamacare. And it's working - - we gotta make it work.”

- Governor Jerry Brown
(10/24/13)



ACA and Medicaid

- ACA expands Medicaid (Medi-Cal) and simplifies and streamlines the enrollment process
- **Currently over 5 million children - *half* of all California children - enrolled in Medi-Cal**, including 128,000 children in CCS



- **Medi-Cal enrollment is always open**...but counties facing a current backlog of *900,000* applications!
- Can children with Medi-Cal access all the services they need in a timely way?
- What systems of care are in place for CSCHN, including those with CCS?
- Is there a specific and meaningful forum to raise issues about Medi-Cal coverage and care specifically for children?

ACA and Covered California Marketplace

- About 80,000 children enrolled in Covered CA, only about 6% of total enrollment
 - Is there enough focus on kids?
- Plans must cover 10 categories of essential health benefits, including: pediatric vision & dental, mental health, pharmacy, and habilitative and rehabilitative services
 - Are all services accessible and available to children given the networks?



ACA and Covered California (cont.)

- Online eligibility & enrollment system allows consumers to shop for and apply for coverage online
 - Did this work as well as it could have and how can it be improved for next year?
- “No wrong door” for coverage, but family members may be eligible for different programs
 - How does the experience differ for mixed-program families?
- Coverage is made affordable through advanced premium tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies
 - How many children and families were caught up in the affordability “glitch” and what happened to them?



Health reform IS working in California ...

...but 3-4 million Californians will still be uninsured!

Who are the uninsured kids that could be left out of reform?



- Children in families for which coverage is still unaffordable
- Children in families who have unmet language assistance or other needs
- Children in families in complex family situations where responsible caretakers are unaware of available coverage options
- Undocumented children and children with undocumented parents

#Health4All: We gotta make it work

- Up to 150,000 California children are undocumented and likely uninsured
- SB 1005 (Lara) goes beyond ACA to provide #Health4All
- Last week SB 1005 passed the first policy committee



Questions?



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THANK YOU!

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