Access to Coverage and Preventive Care for Pregnant Women and Children

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September 10, 2020
Maternal and Child Health Policy Innovation Program (MCH-PIP) projects:

* National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

* Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) / Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP)

* National Academy of State Health Policy (NASHP)
Preventive services for women and children required by the Affordable Care Act
COVID Concerns for MCH

• Pregnancy care/maternal mortality
• Decrease in pediatric immunization rates
• Behavioral health care – mental health and substance use
• Growing racial disparities in health care
Telehealth: Addressing access to care for MCH
$15M in Telehealth Funds

- $15 million to increase telehealth access and infrastructure for providers and families to help prevent and respond to COVID-19

- Funded through the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act

**Pediatric Care**
*American Academy of Pediatrics*

**Maternal Health Care**
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

**Family Engagement**
*Family Voices*

**State Public Health Systems**
*Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs*
Families First Coronavirus Response Act - March 2020

6.2% increase in federal Medicaid matching funds (FMAP) for state response to COVID-19

Requirements for states:

Coverage of COVID testing and treatment, equipment, and therapies, without cost-sharing

“Disenrollment Freeze”
Continuous Medicaid eligibility until the public health emergency ends. Applies to all women and children (and other populations) enrolled as of 3/18/20
Medicaid Disenrollment Freeze

• States may not disenroll any beneficiary who was enrolled in Medicaid as of March 18, 2020, or anyone who newly enrolls until after the national emergency declaration has been lifted.

• Pregnant women covered by Medicaid will continue receiving coverage beyond 60 days postpartum. However, because the Families First maintenance of effort requirement doesn’t apply to CHIP, pregnant women covered by CHIP in six states (CO, MO, NJ, RI, VA, WV) will not maintain coverage.
Policy options to improve access to care and coverage during COVID
### Options to Improve Marketplace Coverage

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Objective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expand</strong></td>
<td>Expand Enrollment Opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Simplify</strong></td>
<td>Simplify the enrollment processes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Improve</strong></td>
<td>Improve affordability of coverage</td>
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- **Expand**: Increase the number of opportunities for enrollment.
- **Simplify**: Streamline the enrollment processes to make them easier.
- **Improve**: Enhance the affordability of coverage options available.
# Options to Improve Medicaid Coverage

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<tr>
<th>Increase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase the FMAP (supported by NCSL, NGA)</td>
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<td>Increase access to Medicaid family planning programs</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Extend</th>
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<td>Extend pregnancy Medicaid coverage to 12 months postpartum and increase income limits</td>
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<table>
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<th>Expand</th>
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<tr>
<td>Expand Medicaid Programs to serve more:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• People with preexisting conditions</td>
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<td>• People who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including people of color</td>
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Continuous Medicaid Eligibility for Children

Source: Association of Community Affiliated Plans
Equitable Maternal Health Coalition

https://www.equitablemhc.org/ppmedicaidtoolkits
Presumptive Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women
After the COVID state of emergency?

Likelihood of:

• Continued high unemployment
• Greater poverty
• Economic volatility

Coverage and access gains from COVID policies may help to address ongoing needs
Thank you!