



The Faces and the Facts: Eligible Kids are Falling through Cracks

Unlike many health problems facing children in our country today, a lack of coverage is something we can solve. Having health coverage ensures kids get the preventive care they need to stay healthy. It enables them to see a doctor when they are sick and it stops childhood illnesses from becoming life-long health burdens. Colorado is making real progress toward covering uninsured children. With [8 out of 10](#) kids currently covered, it's time to finish the job.

Meet Rich McLean

For the past three years, Rich has worked tirelessly to help families enroll their children in public health coverage programs. As a member of St. Therese Catholic Church and as a volunteer with Metro Organizations for People and KidzBlitz, Rich has helped families in Aurora, Denver, Conifer, Littleton and Colorado Springs enroll their children in Medicaid and CHP+.

Working with families has shown Rich firsthand the challenges that Colorado families face when seeking and maintaining public health coverage. As Rich states, *"There are many simple-to-solve reasons why kids are falling through the cracks. Some live in families who don't know about CHP+ or Medicaid; some wrongly assume they do not qualify for these programs. Others don't have access to the help they need to fill-out the complicated enrollment forms or fail to re-enroll due to the complicated process."*

Covering kids ensures access to needed care, screenings, and immunizations

- Nearly [115,000 of 176,000](#) uninsured children in Colorado are eligible for public health programs, yet not enrolled.
- One of the most common reasons that eligible families are not enrolled or lose their public coverage is the [cumbersome](#) enrollment and renewal process.
- The six Colorado counties with the [highest number](#) of kids eligible for public coverage, but not enrolled include Denver (26,107), Arapahoe (12,317), Jefferson (11,955), Adams (10,606), El Paso (9,462), and Weld (8,290).
- Four Colorado counties have [less than 50%](#) of eligible children enrolled in public coverage: Pitkin (27.4% enrollment), Routt (34.6%), San Miguel (45.9%) and Rio Blanco (47.1%).

Our opportunity is now. Colorado kids can't wait.

Learn more and view referenced links at www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org; contact Gretchen.Hammer@ccmu.org with questions.