



## The Faces and the Facts: Medicaid and CHP+ in Colorado

By strengthening health coverage for children in recent years, Colorado leaders have done the right thing for families and the smart thing for taxpayers. Programs like CHP+ and Medicaid provide kids with the preventive care they need to stay healthy, including screenings and immunizations. It also helps reduce [costly emergency](#) room visits. Due to the recession, enrollment in these programs is at an all time high, with nearly 300,000 kids in [Medicaid](#), and 70,000 kids (and 1,600 pregnant women) in [CHP+](#).

### Meet Larissa and Her Family

Before her husband lost his job two years earlier, Larissa and her family considered themselves middle class. They went from having money for health care, groceries, and other needs to barely scraping by each month. Thinking she did not qualify, Larissa did not seek public health coverage for her family. Instead, she purchased a bare-bones plan for emergency situations.

Then, Larissa found out she was pregnant. Her family's private plan did not include maternity coverage – and Larissa knew she could not go without vital prenatal care. Unsure where to turn, a friend suggested she visit a federally qualified community health center that offered services on a sliding scale. At her first appointment, a case worker reviewed with Larissa her potential eligibility for Medicaid or CHP+. Due to her financial circumstances, Larissa qualified for coverage through Medicaid.

As Larissa states, “It is difficult to find the right words that express the relief my husband and I felt knowing I would have prenatal care from the beginning. It provided peace of mind for us (and our baby), rather than the constant stress we would have felt without coverage. On the evening of June 25th, we gratefully welcomed our Alec into the world.”

### Kids' Coverage Programs in Colorado

- [Family Medicaid](#) is a public health insurance program for Colorado kids (age 0-18) and for parents with dependent children. [Child Health Plan Plus](#) (CHP+) is low-cost, public health insurance for Colorado's uninsured children and pregnant women who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but cannot afford or access private health insurance. Both programs are funded with federal and state dollars and administered by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF).
- “Children with health insurance, whether public or private, are more likely than children without insurance to have a regular and [accessible](#) source of health care.” In fact, [30% of uninsured kids](#) have no usual source of care, compared to 5% of publicly insured kids and 3% of privately insured kids.
- In 2007, Colorado became a national leader when lawmakers passed [Senate Bill 07-130](#), which directed HCPF to increase the number of children in Medicaid and CHP+ receiving care through a “medical home”, which ensures coordinated and comprehensive access to medical, mental, and oral health care. In Colorado, more than [236,000](#) publicly insured children are enrolled in a medical home.

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

Learn more and view referenced links at [www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org](http://www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org); contact [Gretchen.Hammer@ccmu.org](mailto:Gretchen.Hammer@ccmu.org) with questions.