



The Faces and the Facts: Kids' Health Coverage Pays

All Colorado children need health care whether they have coverage or not. Every child, regardless of their parents' income, needs immunizations, screenings, and routine visits to the doctor. Due to their family's financial circumstances, however, not every child is able to access such vital care. Our state has the [fastest growing rate](#) of the number of kids living in poverty. Children [living in poverty](#) are less healthy and more likely to have chronic health conditions. They are more likely to be born premature and to [develop illnesses](#) later in life. Left untreated, many of these easily managed illnesses become costly to Colorado families and Colorado. By covering uninsured children through Medicaid and CHP+, we can help keep kids healthy, break the cycle of poverty for families, and save taxpayers' money.

Meet Toby Serrano and his daughter Maria

Toby Serrano and his wife have three daughters. Two are grown and have already moved out of the house. Their third daughter, Maria, is 14. At 3-years-old, Maria was diagnosed with an arterial venus malformation (AVM) in her brain. She went through 23 procedures to correct the problem.

Today, Maria is in good health and is an active teenager. However, her dad is unable to get insurance for her due to her pre-existing condition. He has tried, but no entity will insure her.

As Toby states, "I cannot afford to have Maria go without coverage. Her check ups are very expensive and the costs are even higher if she gets sick. Kids catch colds, they get sniffles and stuff. They need regular and timely care at a doctor's office -- not costly, last-resort visits to the ER."

Kids' Coverage is a Wise Investment for Colorado

- Keeping kids covered saves the state money. Public health insurance programs, like CHP+ and Medicaid, help low-income parents obtain preventive care for their kids from less expensive office settings, rather than an [emergency room](#).
- Covering kids brings federal dollars home. As the single largest source of [federal funding](#) in Colorado's state budget, Medicaid has a substantial impact on the state's economy by generating services and supplies, jobs, income, and state tax revenues.
- Under the recently passed Child Health Reauthorization Act, Colorado's funding for CHP+ increased by 36%, from \$71 million to [\\$97 million](#).
- Colorado [ranks 49th](#) among states in per capita spending for Medicaid and [31st](#) among states in per capita spending for CHP+.

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.