



SUCCESSFUL KIDS: Communities Helping Children Become Insured

Children's health isn't just a family issue – it's a community issue. A child's health can impact everything from school attendance to a parent's job performance. That is why hundreds of organizations, such as community-based groups, church groups and medical facilities, have stepped up to help Pennsylvanians apply for health and human service benefits by registering as **COMPASS Community Partners**. COMPASS is Pennsylvania's online application for important human service benefits like Medicaid and CHIP. Organizations that register as COMPASS Community Partners can assist families with the application process and track the application to completion. To ensure accountability, these partners sign agreements so all applications can be tracked back to the organization and/or individual who submitted it on behalf of the family. COMPASS Community Partners play a key role in helping uninsured children get the health care coverage they need.

Children with coverage can see a doctor for preventive care, or whenever a physical or behavioral health need arises, so they can reach the finish line ready to begin adulthood.

One community partner organization that has had great success helping enroll children in health care coverage is Opportunity House, a multi-service organization in Reading focused on improving the quality of life for children and families. Meet Orlando, one of the case managers at Opportunity House who helps families apply for health care using COMPASS. Here is what Orlando had to say:

Without the assistance of Opportunity House or another organization like us to help families through the application process, many more children would go uninsured. We not only help them complete the application, but collect and submit the necessary documents needed to get coverage. Families tell us time and time again how much they appreciate help in getting their child covered.

To become a COMPASS Community Partner, go to www.compass.state.pa.us and click on "Register a new Community Partner or a New Community Partner user" in the lower right corner of the homepage.

Let's finish what we started and make sure *all* children have access to health insurance. We *can* reach the finish line!