

# Medicaid & CHIP Provide Quality Health Insurance for Half of Pennsylvania Kids

Over the past year, much has happened in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) that has changed how families apply for or renew public health insurance for their children.

## Medicaid Unwinding

Last spring, Pennsylvania began the process of unwinding from the Medicaid continuous coverage provision, which prohibited states from disenrolling individuals during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Once the provision expired, states resumed the process of Medicaid renewals to determine whether enrollees still qualify for coverage.

## CHIP Eligibility System Transition

Coming on the heels of the Medicaid unwinding, DHS moved forward with an IT eligibility systems transition that shifted the process of applications and renewals from CHIP MCOs to DHS County Assistance Offices (CAOs). CHIP families and all new enrollees must go through DHS to determine who qualifies for CHIP instead of their health insurance plans.

What hasn't changed is that Medicaid and CHIP continue to offer comprehensive health coverage, including access to medications, well-child visits, vaccinations, and more for children in every community across the Commonwealth.



**51% of Pennsylvania children rely on Medicaid or CHIP to meet their health care needs.**

## Have you lost Medicaid? Here's what to do next.

\*Some kids may have lost health coverage by mistake. Almost half of the PA children who lost coverage during the Medicaid unwinding process were due to procedural or paperwork reasons, not eligibility. Check to see if your child is still eligible. Visit [dhs.pa.gov/Compass](https://dhs.pa.gov/Compass) or call the Customer Service Center at 1-877-385-8930 or 1-215-560-7226 (Philadelphia).

\*Children no longer eligible for Medicaid can transition their health coverage to CHIP for free or at a low cost

based on household income. CHIP fills the gap for families who don't qualify for Medicaid yet can't afford private health insurance. Visit [chipcoverspakids.com](https://chipcoverspakids.com) or call the CHIP Helpline at 1-800-986-KIDS (5437).

**Losing health coverage and access to care can result in poorer health outcomes early on and later in life.**

**Medicaid and CHIP are open for enrollment 365 days of the year. Sign up TODAY for free or low-cost coverage through [dhs.pa.gov/Compass](https://dhs.pa.gov/Compass)**

## Policy Spotlight: 12-month continuous eligibility

Federal law required states to implement 12 months of continuous coverage for children in Medicaid and CHIP beginning January 2024. While PA already had this policy in CHIP and for children under 4 in Medicaid, the new requirement will expand to include all children in Medicaid. A 12-month continuous eligibility policy creates a more efficient system, reduces administrative burden, protects children from harmful gaps in care, and provides peace of mind for low-income parents.

# Pennsylvania Children Enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP by Congressional District

Party Affiliation	District	Member of Congress	MA Eligibility <19 Years (Sep 2023)	CHIP Eligibility <19 Years (Sep 2023)	Total Child Eligibility (Sep 2023)	Estimated Percent of Child Population	Estimated Percent of the Total Population
R	1	Fitzpatrick	48,042	9,408	57,450	35%	8%
D	2	Boyle	137,676	9,754	147,430	81%	19%
D	3	Evans	105,789	6,526	112,315	77%	15%
D	4	Dean	46,202	8,276	54,478	32%	7%
D	5	Scanlon	83,574	8,943	92,517	51%	12%
D	6	Houlahan	63,457	9,140	72,597	39%	9%
D	7	Wild	76,440	11,144	87,584	52%	11%
D	8	Cartwright	89,345	9,565	98,910	62%	13%
R	9	Meuser	75,713	9,620	85,333	52%	11%
R	10	Perry	82,379	10,021	92,400	53%	12%
R	11	Smucker	62,993	11,479	74,472	41%	10%
D	12	Lee	69,062	7,055	76,117	53%	10%
R	13	Joyce	72,079	10,714	82,793	50%	11%
R	14	Reschenthaler	69,568	8,777	78,345	52%	10%
R	15	Thompson	60,972	7,638	68,610	45%	9%
R	16	Kelly	75,553	7,732	83,285	50%	11%
D	17	Deluzio	51,175	6,950	58,125	37%	8%
D	Statewide	<b>Sen. Bob Casey, Jr.</b>	<b>1,270,019</b>	<b>152,742</b>	<b>1,422,761</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>11%</b>
D	Statewide	<b>Sen. John Fetterman</b>					

Note: The totals above will not match the counts provided monthly by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services due to report timing differences. Monthly Medicaid child enrollment includes youth ages 19-20: an additional 118,571 youth ages 19-20 were served in September 2023. CHIP data is based on eligibility and does not reflect the 1,979 youth who turned 19 in September 2023.



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Source: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children analysis of data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the U.S. Census Bureau.