



Kentucky can...

## Ensure children and families continue to access the health care they need

Kentucky has made strides to improve the number of children who have access to health coverage, including through Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP) and Medicaid.

KCHIP and Medicaid ensure children in low-income families receive access to health coverage that allows them to visit health care providers to address their physical, behavioral, oral, and vision health needs. While health coverage rates remain high, progress has stagnated; there are still at least 40,000 children and teens who need to be enrolled in health insurance.

# 96%

of Kentucky children under age 19 have health insurance

All children, especially those living in low-income and vulnerable families, need access to affordable health care to ensure healthy growth and development. Research has shown that children with health coverage are more likely to receive regular preventive care, such as well-child exams, and to stay connected to a primary care doctor.

Parents' health—and access to health insurance coverage—affects the health and well-being of their children. The single best predictor of a child's health coverage is their parents' coverage. When parents are insured, they are more likely to be healthy so they can care and provide for their children, and children rely on their parents to sign them up for health insurance and to take them to their health care providers.

### Kentucky can continue to improve children's health coverage in three ways:

1. Continue to prioritize the Medicaid and KCHIP programs in the state budget.
2. Invest in initiatives focused on closing the remaining gap in coverage.
3. Ensure that any changes to the Medicaid program are simple to understand, participate in, and utilize to protect the health of children and their families.

#### Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Prioritizing investments in child health coverage, initiatives to close the remaining gap, and ensuring children and families can continue to access the health care they need