

Keep Medicaid Strong for Kids



Wisconsin Medicaid/BadgerCare Plus

Wisconsin uses a combination of federal Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, and state match funds to provide health coverage to children. This includes for children living in families with incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty level, children with disabilities or complex medical conditions, and children in foster care.

- Approximately 500,000 children are covered by Medicaid each year, equating to over one-third of kids living in Wisconsin. ¹
- Children represent 50% of Wisconsin's Medicaid population, but account for approximately 15% of the state's Medicaid spending. ²
- Wisconsin Hospital Association data shows that Medicaid reimburses Wisconsin hospitals on average only 63% of the cost of providing care.
- The annual Medicaid spending per child in Wisconsin is approximately \$2,763, ranking one of the lowest in the country (national average \$3,022). ³

Medicaid is the foundation for pediatric health care. It is the single largest health insurer for children, covering more than 35 million kids nationwide. While children represent a large proportion of the Medicaid population, they are responsible for only a fraction of Medicaid spending. Providing kids with access to health care, including early prevention and intervention services, keeps kids healthy and keeps their health care costs low. Providing kids with Medicaid coverage supports them in achieving positive health outcomes and reaching their full potential.

Medicaid is a critical source of health care coverage for kids with complex medical needs, including many who are also covered by commercial insurance. Medicaid also plays an important role in children's behavioral health, as it is the nation's largest payer for these services.

Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit is an especially important component of the health care safety net for children. EPSDT ensures that children receive all medically necessary screenings and care, including physician and hospital visits, well-child visits and treatments, and dental services.

Spotlight: Katie Beckett Medicaid

Katie Beckett Medicaid is a special eligibility pathway for kids under age 19 who live at home and have complex medical needs, long-term disabilities or mental health needs. Approximately 10,000 kids in Wisconsin qualify for this coverage, enabling them to be cared for by their parents at home and covering the cost of health-related services, such as personal care items, medical equipment and transportation.

1: [Medicaid.gov](https://www.medicaid.gov)

2: [Legis.wisconsin.gov](https://legis.wisconsin.gov)

3: [Kaiser Family Foundation](https://www.kaisersfamilyfoundation.org)



Children's Wisconsin

Children's Wisconsin is one of the largest providers for kids covered by Medicaid in the state. From routine check-ups to unique specialty care, Medicaid provides access to high quality health care for kids.

- In 2023, Children's provided nearly \$99 million in uncompensated care for kids covered by Medicaid.
- 53% of Children's Wisconsin's hospital inpatient visits are children covered by Medicaid.
- Chorus Community Health Plans covers more than 120,000 adults and children in eastern Wisconsin, making it the third largest BadgerCare health plan in the state.

Investing in the health of children

Children's Wisconsin is committed to redesigning systems of care to advance health outcomes, improve patient and family experience, and reduce total costs of care. We are partnering with Wisconsin Medicaid and other stakeholders to bring innovative systems of care to children who need it most, including:

- Care4Kids: Medical home for children in out-of-home care in southeastern Wisconsin that provides comprehensive and coordinated care to meet the unique needs of this population, serving approximately 34,500 children in 2023, including an average of 2,800+ children enrolled each month
- Special Needs Program: Coordinates the medical and non-medical services of children with complex medical conditions whose care crosses many specialties and who face challenges navigating care and supports
- Integrated mental & behavioral health care: Across 21 locations, Children's patients and families have access to a Masters-prepared therapist during their Primary Care visit alongside their trusted provider, with no waitlists or hand-offs needed, expanding access and reducing stigma
- Dental health care services: Pediatric dental services with more than 22,000 visits each year, with 35% of dental patients having special health care needs and 90% of dental patients having Medicaid coverage



Kids deserve the best.