



Ohio Can Keep Its Promise to Cover More Kids

Executive Summary

Through hard work and bipartisan commitment, in 2007 Ohio's leaders adopted measures to provide health coverage to uninsured children using our state's successful, cost-effective Medicaid program. Unfortunately, due to red tape and federal roadblocks, 156,000 of our children—enough to fill Ohio Stadium one-and-a-half times—are still uninsured.

The good news is that Ohio's leaders can keep their promise, by covering most of these children right now. By cutting red tape that keeps eligible children from getting the coverage they need, we can cover 2 out of 3 uninsured Ohio children—approximately 106,000—who are already eligible for Medicaid.



SIMPLIFY ENROLLMENT TO GET ELIGIBLE KIDS ENROLLED:

- **Get kids into care quicker** – Fourteen states already use pediatricians' offices, community health centers, Head Start programs, and similar organizations to enroll a child provisionally based on the parent's income declaration. That way, sick kids don't have to wait weeks for treatment while the paperwork clears.
- **Reduce the paperwork burden by using information already on file** – Often, agencies already have the income information they need to verify the eligibility of thousands of uninsured children. Coordinating and sharing data between agencies can cut the red tape for families and increase efficiency for eligibility workers.
- **Spread the word, so we can find and enroll more eligible kids** – Parents can't enroll their kids in a program they've never heard of, and building partnerships with trusted community organizations like food banks, health clinics, and Head Start programs can help Ohio reach the parents who need to know. And every \$1 Ohio invests in community outreach brings in \$1 in matching federal funds.

American Academy of Pediatrics

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Ohio Chapter



Ohio Children's Hospital Association

Progress is a healthy child



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OHIO'S CHILDREN

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