Connecting Immigrant Families to Health Care

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Who We Are

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About CDF

The CDF Leave No Child Behind® Mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.
About RGV Outreach

- We meet children and families where they are and work with partners who families trust.
- Partners: Schools, businesses, churches, clinics, child care providers, libraries, WIC clinics, and other community partners.
- We enroll children & families in Medicaid, CHIP, Healthcare.Gov plans, SNAP, & more.
Task: Improve Child & Immigrant Health

- Get Covered
- Stay Covered
- Cover the Whole Family
In the chat:
What do you know about the public charge rule?
My U.S. citizen children receive SNAP. This affects my ability to become a legal permanent resident.

MYTH

FACT
My U.S. citizen children receive SNAP. This affects my ability to become a legal permanent resident.
My U.S. citizen children receive section 8 housing assistance. This affects my ability to become a legal permanent resident.

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**MYTH**

**FACT**
What is the public charge?

- The “public charge” inadmissibility test has been designed to identify people who may depend on the government as their main source of support in the future.

- The public charge test does not apply to all immigrants—many immigrants are exempt from a public charge test—only immigrants applying for their first visa or a green card.

- Most immigrants who are subject to public charge test are not eligible for the benefits considered, and many benefits are not considered (only cash benefits like TANF or SSI, and long-term institutionalization).
240,000+

Children disenrolled from Medicaid by their parents, 2017-2020

Every Texan
Rosario Rodriguez

“Several years ago, when I got my appointment to get my green card, the immigration official asked if I received government help. I answered yes, I had Medicaid and food stamps for my children. He said, I need to cancel my Medicaid and food stamps. I was so excited to finally get my green card, so I told my husband to cancel. The agency told us none of the benefits are for me—they were for my children—so they shouldn’t affect my immigration status. In the end, we canceled Medicaid and SNAP. I got my legal permanent residency. And then I went for a long time without benefits until Obamacare came out. **Had I known my rights, I would’ve acted differently.**”
Immigrant families are listening - but selectively

Uplift what families need to know

Include a family-facing takeaway

Provide context for legal challenges
Stay Covered
In the chat:
What do you know about the ‘Medicaid unwinding’ or the ‘Public Health Emergency unwinding’?
How many people does TX Medicaid need to redetermine?

A. 500,000
B. 1 million
C. 2 million
D. 3 million
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Children are at risk of losing their healthcare

- Families are rusty, and the process is confusing
- Many families have moved
- Agencies are short staffed
3 in 4

Children who will lose Medicaid in this process but still be eligible

Georgetown Center for Children and Families
**SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES: AGENCY STAFFING SHORTAGES**

- Families have experienced delays in accessing benefits because of agency delays.
- Our team learned that HHSC was processing May applications in October.
- Our team is providing invaluable support to add capacity to the local HHSC agency.
Prior to the pandemic, the process of applying and renewing benefits was confusing for families with requests for verification of income often times resulting in gaps in coverage.
● Clarity about process and timeline
● Effect on different groups
● Avoid language that causes undue fear and shakes faith in Medicaid
● Include information that families need to act on right now
● And a ‘deadline’
Cover the Whole Family
In the chat:
Where can low-income immigrant Texans turn to get healthcare and health insurance?
Gap in Coverage for Adults in States that Do Not Expand Medicaid Under the ACA

- **MEDICAID**: Limited to Specific Low-Income Groups
  - 0% FPL Childless Adults
  - 41% FPL $8,905 for Parents in a Family of Three
  - 100% FPL $12,760 for an Individual
  - 400% FPL $51,040 for an Individual

- **NO COVERAGE**

- **MARKETPLACE SUBSIDIES**

*Median Medicaid Eligibility Limits as of January 2020*
What % of Americans in the coverage gap are people of color?

A. 51%
B. 58%
C. 70%
D. 74%
Benefits from Expanding Medicaid

- Better health outcomes
- Less medical debt
- Fewer rural hospital closures
Benefits from Expanding Medicaid

- Positive impact on state budget
- Unlocking federal dollars
- Better maternal health
Trish’s Story

- Works as a CNA, making $1,700 ‘on a good month’
- A dog bite led to infection, revealing a blood disorder - and saddling her with $2,000 in debt
- “As a single mother, I’m thinking, ‘Oh God, I might not leave this hospital. This might be the last time I see my kid.’”
Our organizing and grassroots strategy is rooted in building power through connecting families’ lived experiences to the choices state leaders have made to create the systemic barriers they encounter everyday.
Best Practices for Identifying Stories

- Be transparent about deadlines
- Partners on the ground may need 1-2 weeks to identify a family
- Be open on type of story
- Send questions in advance
- Trauma-informed approach
- Send your piece & follow up
We can connect you with storytellers, grassroots partners, and more.

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THANK YOU & STAY IN TOUCH!