

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING CHILDREN'S COVERAGE

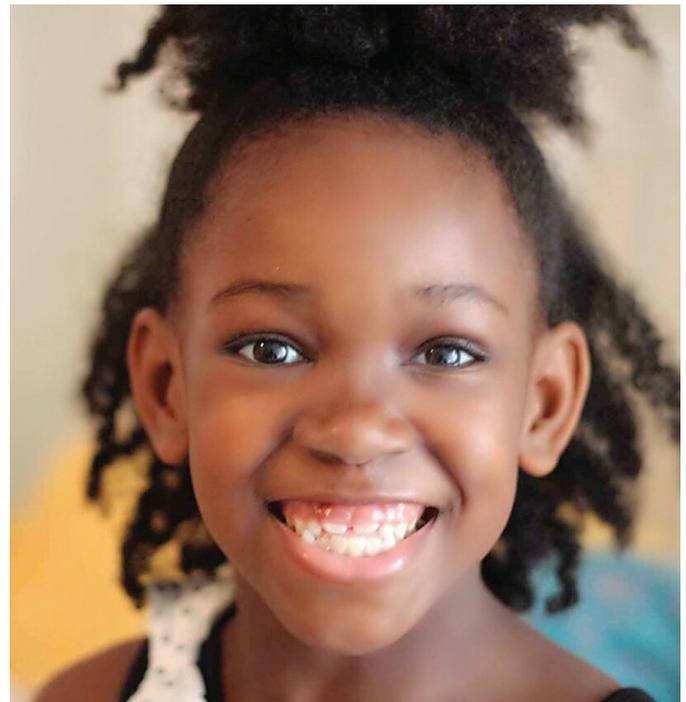
The report, “The Affordable Care Act and Children’s Coverage in California: Our Progress and Our Future,” developed by The Children’s Partnership, highlights the tremendous strides in children’s coverage made over the past six years through implementation of the Affordable Care Act and other related health care reforms. Over 5.7 million children—more than half of the children in California—are enrolled in coverage through Medi-Cal and Covered California. The report identifies recommendations for how California can further advance children’s coverage and care as well as the following areas of opportunity for federal action.

▶ **Define the “Pediatric Services” Essential Health Benefit category as Medicaid EPSDT.** Without a federal definition of pediatric services, children are missing out on essential child-specific care—which children enrolled in Medicaid get through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment services—that is not included in the employer-based (i.e., adult) benchmark benefits package.

▶ **Fix the “Family Glitch” by revising the current regulatory interpretation of “affordability test.”** There are reasonable interpretations of the affordability test that better capture the Congressional intent of preserving employer coverage, while also making marketplace subsidies available when family coverage through employers is unaffordable.

▶ **Maintain and fund CHIP through 2017 and beyond.** CHIP successfully offers affordable, quality, and comprehensive child-specific benefits for children and should be maintained, including the enhanced federal match provided to states.

▶ **Protect and preserve the Medicaid program and its financing.** Restricting states’ ability to pay for Medicaid with provider taxes would greatly undermine states’ ability to sustain their Medicaid programs. Also, restricting the federal financing for Medicaid through a per capita cap, block grant, or other means would jeopardize Medicaid coverage and shift costs to the states.



▶ **Provide subsidies for adults to purchase dental coverage through marketplaces, including Covered California.** Making dental benefits more affordable will likely lead to more children using their own dental benefits, based on evidence that when parents have health coverage, all family members, including children, are more likely to use their benefits.

Read the full report at www.childrenspartnership.org/childrenandtheaca.