

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

In 2021, California families faced the fight against both the continued COVID-19 pandemic and the exacerbated inequities surrounding it. In response, **The Children's Partnership** (TCP) doubled down on our commitment that all California children of every race, ethnicity and place of birth have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential.

Finalized this year, our three-year **Strategic Plan** focuses on harnessing the power of partnership to advance child health equity in California by doing work that contributes to:



Healthy Kids



Strong, Economically Stable & Connected Families



Safe & Welcoming Communities

THROUGH OUR THREE PROGRAM AREAS, HERE ARE SOME OF OUR MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021:

POLICY

Meeting Whole Child and Whole Family Needs

We supported a number of proposals adopted in the **final state budget** that address the negative effects of the pandemic.

Supporting child and youth mental health in schools and early learning centers

Health care coverage for immigrants **age 50+**

Expanding food benefits to more Californians, no matter their immigration status

Passing Mental Health Legislation

We worked with partners to pass legislation (SB 224) that will help ensure California's **3.4 million public, middle and high school students receive information on mental health and wellness** to address the worsening mental health crisis.

Bringing Anti-Racist Solutions to Health Care

To push back on the impacts of racism on child health, we supported a community health workforce to improve health care delivery for children. After hosting a listening session with community health workers (CHWs) and releasing a **policy brief**, we were selected to participate in a state-led workgroup to **define how CHWs will be a covered benefit in Medi-Cal**.

85 organizations across the U.S. signed our Public Charge letter emphasizing the unique needs of children.

Supporting Children in Immigrant Families

We drafted and submitted a federal comment, together with the **Children Thrive Action Network** and key partners, with recommendations for the Department of Homeland Security to craft a **Public Charge rule that minimizes the harm to children in immigrant families**, recognizing the long-term benefits of connecting them to health care, food, housing and other assistance.

RESEARCH

Ensuring Our Policies Support Children's Mental Health

Our **COVID-19 & Children's Mental Health Fact Sheet** provides a snapshot of the alarming decline in mental health conditions among children and youth since the pandemic began.

Elevating Children's Health Data

We worked with **California Consortium for Urban Indian Health (CCUIH)**, **Two Feathers Native American Family Services**, **Asian Resources, Inc.**, **California Black Women's Health Project**, **Latino Coalition for a Healthy California** and **Equality California** to update our **population-specific fact sheets on health inequities** among marginalized children as impacted by the pandemic.

At least **5,400** American Indian and Alaska Native children in California are uninsured.

Improving Medi-Cal Coverage for Children

Our **Medi-Cal Enrollment Fact Sheet** addresses stagnant enrollment in Medi-Cal health coverage of children in California – enrollment that is far slower than the national average of enrollment in health coverage for all children.

Medi-Cal should extend continuous coverage to children from birth to age five.

Delivering Critical Information to Children and Families

We connected **over 1,000 parents and school administrators with state and federal health and school officials and decision-makers** through three webinars about the COVID-19 vaccines and returning to school during the pandemic.

We helped **hundreds of families access resources provided by the American Rescue Plan**, including the Expanded Child Tax Credit, through a **fact sheet** translated into multiple languages.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Creating More Seats at the Table

We partnered with the **National Black Women's Justice Institute** to launch the **Hope, Healing and Health Collective (H3C)**, an effort spearheaded by **15 BIPOC youth leaders** across the U.S., centering their leadership and lived experiences to develop a robust policy agenda for improved mental health resources in response to the pandemic and racial injustice.

Listening to Impacted Communities

We partnered with **Health Net** to hear from **100+ families, educators, health providers and community leaders** about what telehealth models work best to improve access to school-based mental and behavioral health care for children. We collaborated with five community-based direct services organizations across California to host listening sessions with **58 families of Medi-Cal children from Latinx, Black, Chinese American and Native American communities** about how meaningful family and community engagement impacts children enrolled in Medi-Cal.