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**

**2021 HIGHLIGHTS**

**THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP**

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.

### RESEARCH

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

### 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.

- **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.

- **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.

### 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.**

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