



# Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL READY-MADE ARTICLE

Community newspapers, school newsletters, church bulletins, local community organizations, websites and blogs are frequently in need of content. The ready-made article below can be used to help spread the word during Back-to-School season about how Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) can help kids start the school year with health coverage!

**\*Insert your state's income limit for a family of four at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). To find the annual FPL figure, visit [ASPE Poverty Guidelines](#). To find the specific FPL guidelines for your state, click [here](#) or contact your state's Medicaid or CHIP program for information. Note: The income level figure will change from year to year based on the annual release of FPL guidelines.**

### [Approximately 406 Words](#)

#### **Children with Health Coverage Are Ready for Whatever the School Year Brings**

Children who have health coverage are better prepared to learn and are less likely to miss school because they're sick. Through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), kids can get the immunizations, regular check-ups, eye exams, dental visits, mental health services, prescriptions and other care they may need to fully participate in classroom and after-school activities. Children and teens up to age 19 can get free or low-cost health coverage through these programs.

Medicaid and CHIP provide health insurance for children in families with low and moderate incomes. Many uninsured children may be eligible for coverage, but their parents don't know it. And parents and other adults may qualify for Medicaid as well. In fact, more adults are eligible now than ever before. In most states, children may be eligible for either Medicaid or CHIP if their family income is up to \$48,600\* (for a family of 4 in 2016). In many states, family income can be even higher and children can still qualify. These programs may be called different names in different states, like "All Kids," or "Family Care." Visit [HealthCare.gov](#) to access a screener tool to find Medicaid and CHIP eligibility information for your state.

#### **Protection from Unexpected Illness or Accidents**

Having health insurance is critical for children to thrive at school and in life. In fact, children with health insurance are more likely to complete high school and graduate college compared with their peers who don't have access to care.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one out of three children aged 5 to 17 years missed one or more school days due to illness or injury. With health insurance, children are getting the care they need to fully participate in school-based activities.

Families can apply for Medicaid and CHIP coverage any time of the year, but the Back-to-School season is the perfect time to enroll! As children start the school year, they may need to submit current health forms or adhere to immunization requirements.

**To learn more about Medicaid and CHIP, call 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325) or visit [HealthCare.gov](#). And if your child is already enrolled in one of these programs, don't forget to renew coverage every year to ensure he or she is covered and can access health care when it is needed.**

*The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided this information.*