



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

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MAZE TO PUBLIC HEALTH CARE COVERAGE GETTING EASIER
Report Maps Progress in Laying the Ground Work to Reduce Barriers to Enrollment,
Some Twists and Turns Remain

Denver – A new interactive document released today by Colorado’s Covering Kids and Families (CKF) project provides an update on progress over the past year to tear down the complex maze that uninsured children and families must navigate when trying to access public health programs. This tool is an update to the original *Maze* report released in April 2009 that outlined extensive barriers to enrollment and offered 20 specific recommendations to improve the state’s eligibility and enrollment system.

“Stakeholders, the Governor, legislators, and advocates have made progress on several recommendations that, once fully implemented, will make the system work better for parents, taxpayers, and most importantly, for uninsured Colorado children,” said Brittney Petersen, manager of the CKF Project.

This update to *The Maze* provides a snapshot in time of the progress made to implement the specific recommendations from the original report. It offers opportunities for concerned Coloradans to become part of the effort to eliminate the barriers that keep so many Colorado kids and families uninsured. The update is an interactive document that allows the reader to hone in on areas of interest by clicking on specific recommendations or opportunities to get involved.

Over the past year, the top two successes directly addressing *Maze* recommendations were:

- The passage of House Bill 09-1293, which has several parts, including a provision that in 2012 will ensure uninterrupted access to services for kids by providing 12-months of continuous eligibility for children enrolled in Medicaid. Effective May 1, Medicaid expanded coverage for parents with children already on Medicaid from 60 percent to 100 percent of the federal poverty level.
- The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing secured a five-year, \$43 million grant to increase access to health care, reduce cost-shifting, and improve the eligibility system. This includes implementing an online application and electronic interfaces to simplify verification requirements.

The top two unresolved recommendations that would have the most immediate benefit for families are:

- Improve the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS), the computer system that determines eligibility for the state’s public assistance programs, supported by policy changes that better coordinate the programs and improve access to health coverage.
- Simplify verification requirements by implementing administrative and electronic verification of citizenship and identity documents.

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To access the interactive update, click [here](#). For more information or to interview a CKF representative, please contact Brittney Petersen at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 253, or brittney@cchn.org.

CKF is a statewide coalition of 190 organizations and more than 300 individuals with experience and expertise in outreach and enrollment for Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+). CKF's mission is to ensure that eligible children and families can enroll and remain enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+ by supporting and facilitating effective outreach, simplifying the enrollment and re-enrollment process, and improving coordination between the programs. For over six years, the CKF coalition has assessed the ongoing needs of state and local communities and informed policy recommendations on Medicaid and CHP+ outreach, enrollment and retention. For more information about CKF, please visit <http://cchn.org/ckf/maze.php>.