

# Opportunities & Challenges for Children with Complex Health Care Needs in Medicaid & CHIP

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Designing Systems that Work for Children with Complex Health Care Needs  
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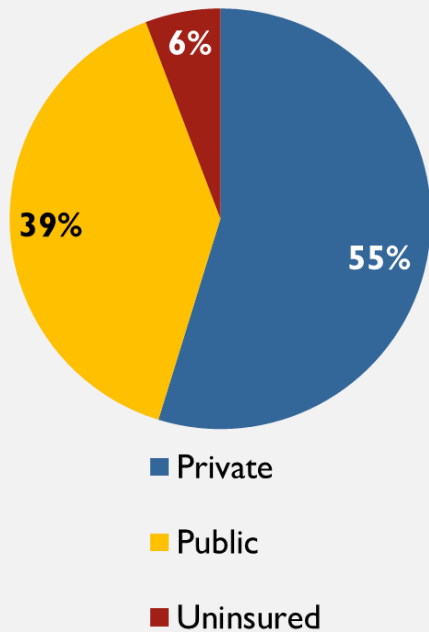
- **Coverage Gains for Children**
- **Challenges Providing Care to Children with Complex Health Needs**
- **Promising Delivery System Reform Initiatives**

# Coverage Gains for Children

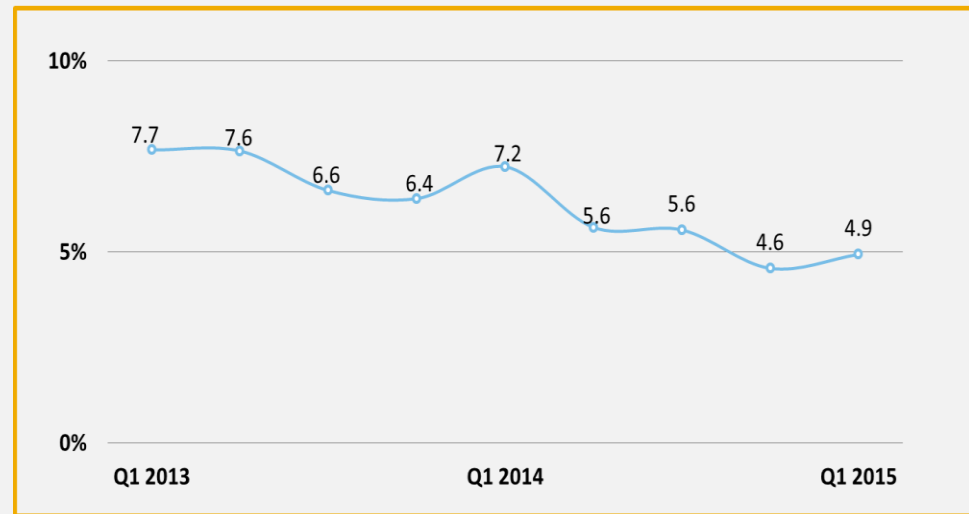
# Current State of Medicaid Coverage for Children

Medicaid is the largest public health insurance program in the United States, covering more than a third of children.

### Insurance Coverage for Children (0-18) in 2014

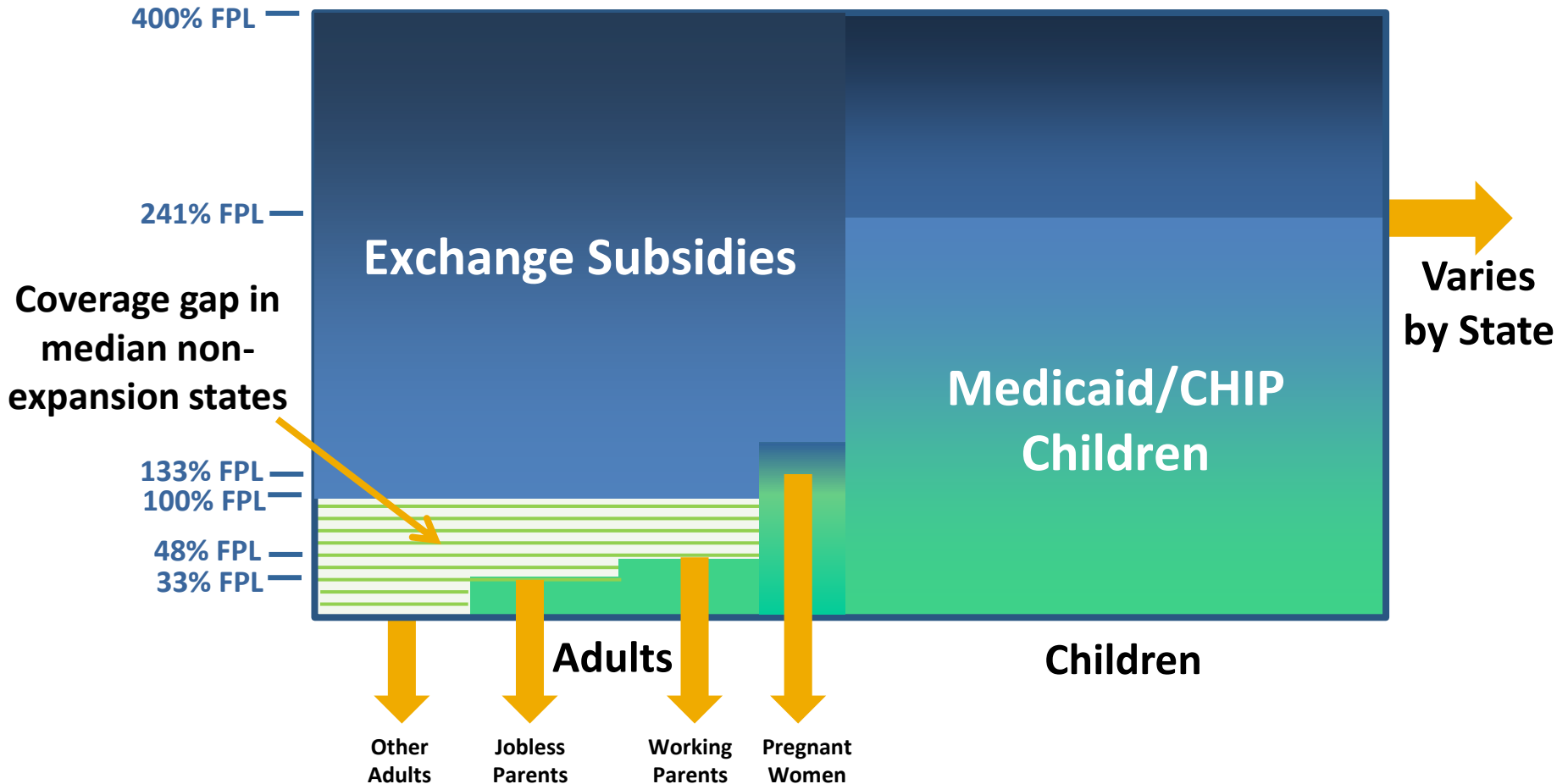


### Uninsurance Rate of Children (0-18) 2013-2015



# New Coverage Paradigm

Medicaid expansion for adults is voluntary with states



# Improvements to Medicaid Coverage



Streamlined application process



Electronic data verification to ease enrollment process



Timely eligibility determinations



Automated renewals process



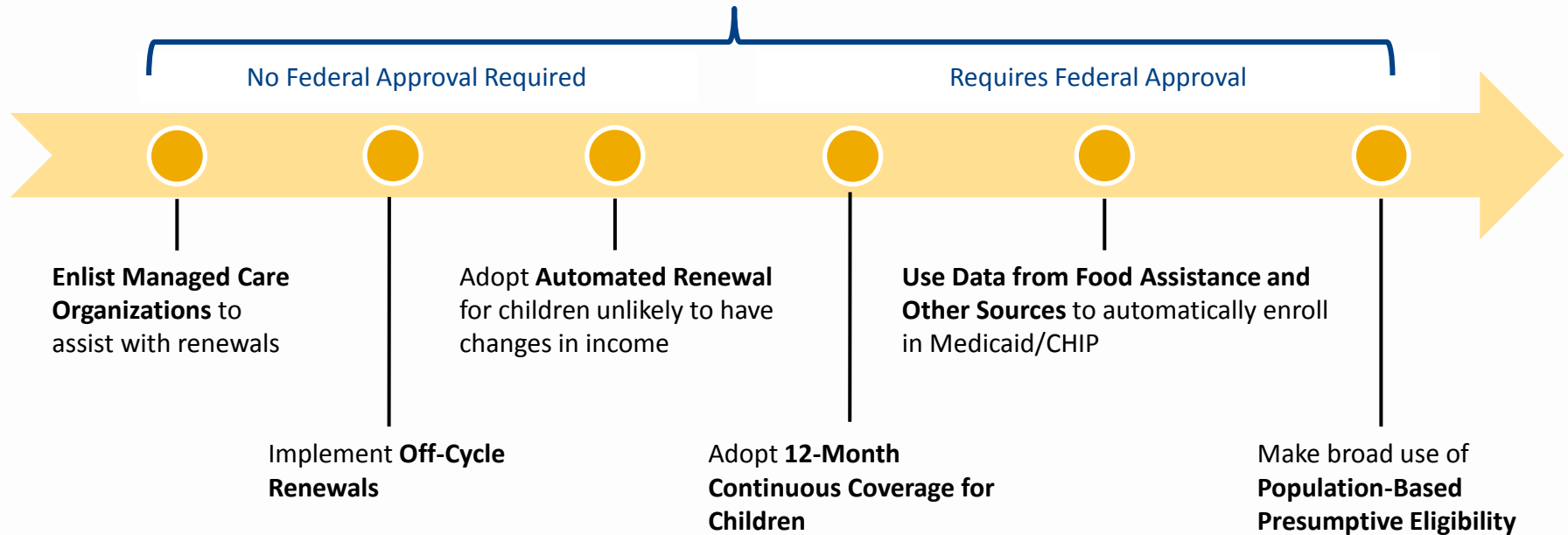
Expanded coverage for the parents and families of children

**Goal:**  
Increase enrollment and retention of eligible children in Medicaid

# Additional Ways to Support Enrollment & Retention

States have options to further simplify enrollment and renewal, and promote continuity of care for children.

## State Options to Help Children Enroll & Stay Enrolled



# **Providing Care to Children with Complex Health Needs**



# Children with Special Health Needs

Children with special health care needs are defined as those who have, or are at increased risk for, a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition that requires health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.

## Children with Special Health Needs

- 20% of children in the United States have special health care needs
- 23% of children with public insurance have special health care needs
- 17% of children with special health needs have  $\geq 4$  chronic conditions

## Children with “More Complex” Needs

- 60% of children with special health needs have “more complex needs”
- Children with medical complexity account for 34% of Medicaid spending on children
- 47% of Medicaid spending for children with medical complexity is tied to hospital care; only 2% to primary care

# Access & Unmet Needs

In general, children have good access to services in the Medicaid program. However, some children with special health care needs face barriers and have unmet needs.

## Barriers to Access

- 35% of families with a child with special health needs had trouble accessing community-based services
- 22% of families had problems getting referrals to specialists

## Unmet Needs

- 19% of families with a child with special health needs reported at least one unmet need (e.g., preventive care, specialist care, prescription medicine, etc.); this number increased to 44% when the child was medically complex
- Medicaid families reported 32% more unmet needs compared to families with private insurance; uninsured families reported four times the number of unmet needs

# Particular Groups with Complex Health Needs



## Foster Care

- Over 400,000 children are in foster care nationally
- 60% of children in foster care have a chronic medical condition; 25% have more than 3
- 50-80% have moderate to severe mental health issues
- Under the Affordable Care Act, former foster care children retain Medicaid coverage up to age 26



## Justice-Involved

- 70,800 youth are in the juvenile justice system
- Over two-thirds of youth reported a health care need; 50-75% have a mental health or substance use disorder
- 9-29% of youth in the justice system are also in the child welfare/foster system
- States are pursuing opportunities to improve continuity of coverage for this population

# Comprehensive Coverage for Children in Medicaid

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit provides comprehensive coverage for children under 21 in Medicaid.



Promotes the **early identification and treatment** of health issues in children, including mental health and substance use disorders.



Provides **all** treatment services that children need and that Medicaid can cover, even if Medicaid does not cover the service for adults.



Covers “necessary health care, diagnostic services, treatment, and other measures... to **correct or ameliorate** defects and physical and mental illnesses and conditions discovered by the screening services.”

SSA §1905(r)(5)

# **Turning the Promise of Coverage and Care into Reality for Children with Complex Needs**

# Care Management

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) announced Round Two of the Health Care Innovation Awards in 2014, which included several awards focused on improving care management of children with complex health needs.



## University of Illinois CHECK (Coordination of Healthcare for Complex Kids)

Project Sponsor: Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois

Project:

- Build a “medical neighborhood” to bring care to patients where they live, work and attend school
- Establish care management teams with embedded navigators



## Massachusetts Alliance for Complex Care (MACC)

Project Sponsor: Boston Medical Center

Project:

- Develop Comprehensive Care plans for children and families through comprehensive assessment
- Assign families a Family Navigator
- Provide behavioral health services

# Care Management, *continued*

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) announced Round Two of the Health Care Innovation Awards in 2014, which included several awards focused on improving care management of children with complex health needs.



## **Coordinating All Resources Effectively (CARE) for Children with Medical Complexity**

Project Sponsor: National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions

Project:

Improve care for medically fragile and intense needs children by:

- 1) Creating tiered system of care
- 2) Designing new payment system/models
- 3) Creating a learning system for providers and payers



## **Special Needs Program for Children with Medical Complexity**

Project Sponsor: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Project:

- Enhance and expand the Special Needs Program (SNP) currently in place at Children's Hosp of WI
- Establish multi-disciplinary care teams
- Expand SNP to ambulatory setting

# Spotlight on Additional Reform



## New York State

- Building a Medicaid health home program tailored to serve the unique needs of children who have complex physical and/or behavioral health conditions
- 174,00 children statewide may be eligible for health home enrollment – in addition, many foster children may be eligible



## The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)

- Piloting the Compass Care program to improve care management and coordination of children with the most complex health needs
- Develops comprehensive care plan for each child with his/her unique needs in mind
- Facilitates communication between doctors, payers, and the family to clearly define roles and ensure that appropriate decision-makers are at the table

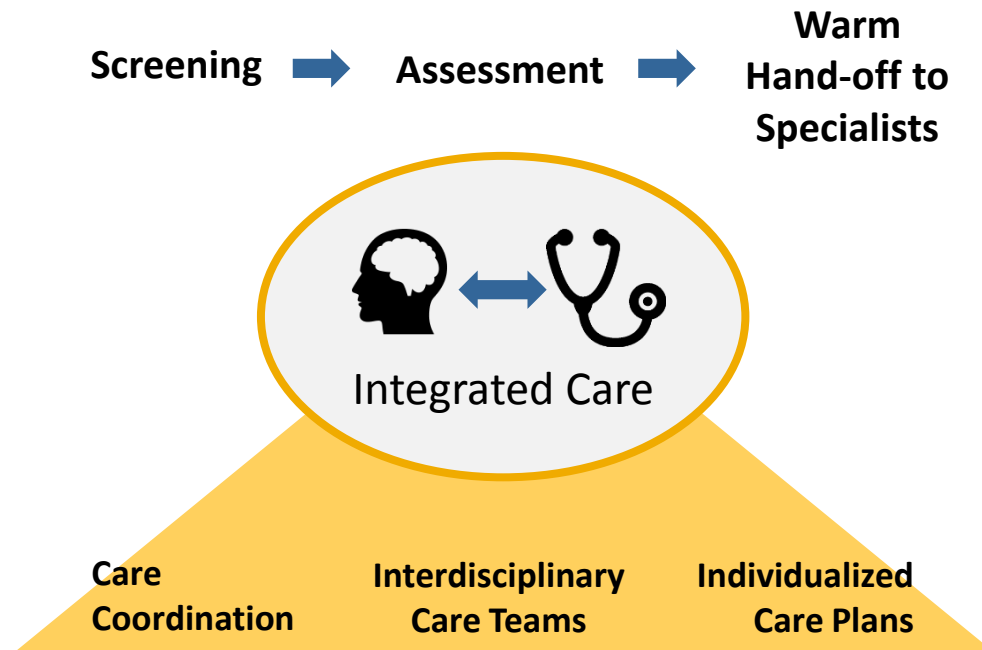


# Behavioral Health Integration

Recognizing the strong relationship between physical and behavioral health, there has been an increased focus on integrating behavioral health and primary care.

## 1115 Waivers in New York and New Hampshire seek to:

- Build behavioral health capacity;
- Improve integration with primary care; and
- Strengthen behavioral health transitions from acute care settings to community settings



**Kids are a critical part of the high needs population – and need to be a focus of delivery system reform.**



# **Thank You!**

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