

#RItCareWorks



kids
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Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Celebration of Children's Health and Well-Being

*At the event, we will reflect on RI's progress in achieving positive health outcomes for children.
We will also review priorities for continuing to improve children's health and well-being.*

Providence, RI (November 17, 2023) – More than 250 community leaders, elected officials, and health care advocates will gather on November 20, 2023 at the Providence Marriott (One Orms Street) from 12:00pm – 1:30pm for Rhode Island KIDS COUNT's **Celebration of Children's Health and Well-Being** to reflect on the progress that Rhode Island has made in achieving positive health outcomes for children — including the fact that Rhode Island is ranked 2nd best in the nation for children's health coverage.

The event will also highlight policy measures that passed last legislative session and current policies being implemented to keep children healthy:

- Medicaid reimbursement for services provided by school-based mental health providers
- Medicaid redeterminations and 12 months of continuous health coverage for children in Medicaid
- Implementation of 2021 *Cover All Kids* policy that restored RIt Care health coverage to all income eligible children regardless of immigration status.

Congressman Seth Magaziner, Congressman Gabe Amo, Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos, Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith, and Senator Alana DiMario will provide remarks about how the state and federal government can help ensure that Rhode Island's children thrive.

Representative Joseph McNamara and Senator Sandra Cano will receive *Covering Kids Awards* for their leadership on the *Promoting Access to Increased Mental Health Services for All Students Act* which provides Medicaid reimbursement for mental health services provided by school social workers and psychologists.

The event will also highlight the important role that youth, parents, and other community members play in achieving important policy changes that support children's health. **Jonathan De Jesus, Community Policy Advocate at Progreso Latino**, will be honored for his leadership in advocating for passage of *Cover All Kids* and for ensuring that immigrant families had the information they needed to enroll their children in RIt Care. The **Providence Alliance for Student Safety** will be

honored for their powerful advocacy on the need for more mental health professionals and services in schools to meet the growing need.

Tara Hayes, a local parent, will share her experience as a Rite Care member.

Policy highlights from the event:

This event is particularly noteworthy for Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. We will be releasing our 2024 budgetary and legislative priorities. See attached 2024 priorities.

Medicaid Renewals

During the pandemic, Medicaid renewals were suspended, so that people did not lose critical health insurance coverage during the national public health emergency.

MEDICAID RENEWALS ARE BACK Households with kids, which includes anyone younger than 19, will get their renewal notice in the mail between December 2023 and April 2024.

Update your contact information.

Look for a yellow or green notice in the mail.

Take action right away.

To learn more or find help near you, visit staycovered.ri.gov

BE READY. STAY COVERED.

Rhode Island households with children will have their Medicaid eligibility reviewed **between December 2023 and April 2024**. It is estimated that millions of children across the nation will lose coverage, and many will lose coverage solely due to administrative or procedural reasons. In neighboring states that have already started renewals for children, thousands of children have already lost coverage. It is important to minimize these procedural terminations for children in Rhode Island to keep children covered and not lose progress made.

Here are three things Medicaid members can do to make sure they're ready:

1. **Update their contact information.** Make sure the State has their current address, phone number, and email address so members can get important updates about their coverage.
2. **Watch for their yellow or green notice in the mail.** The State may tell members that their coverage is being automatically renewed or ask for more information.
3. **Take action right away.** Members should submit signed forms and any other documents the State requests as soon as possible. Members must send the State their documents by the date on their notice.

Members can check in their online account or through the quick look-up tool at www.staycovered.ri.gov.

Continuous Health Coverage

- 12 months of continuous health coverage for children enrolled in Medicaid means that children can maintain coverage throughout the year even if their family income fluctuates from month to month. Starting in January, 2024 Rhode Island will provide 12 months of continuous coverage to children enrolled in Medicaid.
- Providing children with continuous coverage leads to greater health coverage rates which are associated with better health, reduced school absenteeism, and higher academic achievement for children. This also could mean fewer lost work days and lower medical debt for their parents and families.
- The policy promotes health equity by limiting gaps in coverage for low-income children who experience disproportionate rates of health disparities, particularly Children of Color.

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[Rhode Island KIDS COUNT](#) is a statewide children's policy organization that works to improve the health, economic well-being, safety, education and development of Rhode Island children, with a core focus on equity.