

New York State Medicaid Waiver

Report Card

October 2022

The Need

Health inequities begin during pregnancy and early childhood, often leading to chronic health conditions that last throughout a person's lifetime.

The Solution

The Children's Agenda organized 59 organizations to urge the NYS Department of Health to **prioritize children** in the Medicaid waiver with emphasis on creating an **integrated delivery system** to address their **mental health** needs.

Priorities for Children

- 1 Youth mental health:** Build stronger partnerships with schools, including primary care & mental health clinics in schools
- 2 Two-generation approaches:** Place behavioral health specialists in pediatric and primary care practices
- 3 Maternal health:** Provide behavioral and mental health support to pregnant and parenting mothers
- 4 Maternal/child coverage:** Provide continuous coverage for mothers and children from 0 - 3 years
- 5 Home visitation:** universal for parents of all newborns
- 6 Developmental screenings:** Comprehensive developmental and social-emotional screenings
- 7 Household internet:** Service and equipment for parents of infants, toddlers & preschoolers

NYS Waiver Proposal Included

Opportunities to focus on:

- Prevention, earlier intervention, and the potential impact of adverse childhood experiences across the age spectrum
- Pandemic's system-level impacts on providers who serve children
- School-based telehealth and school-based care coordination programs with a focus on expanding access to preventive service, primary care, and behavioral health

NYS Waiver Proposal Excluded

- **Require** Health Equity Regional Organizations to **prioritize children**, despite the fact that under the last waiver amendment fewer than 10% of NY regions made any significant investment in maternal and child health.
- **Require** Health Equity Regional Organizations to **prioritize youth mental health**, despite the fact that a national crisis of youth mental health has been declared
- **Designate funds** specifically for child health, despite the fact that 50% of pregnancies and births are covered by Medicaid

What New York Children Still Need

- 1** \$2.668 billion (39.5%) of the funds dedicated to Advanced Value-Based Payment models to be dedicated to maternal and child health to match the proportion of Medicaid managed care enrollees who are children.
- 2** Require dedicated funding to child and maternal health as part of the terms and conditions of the Medicaid waiver.
- 3** Dedicated funding for screening, evaluation and treatment for children.
- 4** Each region in New York should be required to identify a portfolio of effective behavioral health approaches for children and youth that will be implemented in years 2 - 5 of the waiver.
- 5** Guaranteed continuous enrollment of children from birth through age 6 years.

Why New York Children Need Us to Act



Black women in New York are 5 times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than white women and **Black infants are 2 times more likely to die** in the first year of life than white infants



Medicaid covers:
50% of pregnancies & births
60% of children 0 - 3 years
40% of children 0 - 18 years



Only 17% of children in New York have formal developmental screenings to identify developmental delays and disabilities before they enter school

How the Medicaid Waiver Works

Section 1115 of the Social Security Act gives the US Secretary of Health and Human Services the authority to approve experimental, pilot or demonstration projects by states to improve their Medicaid programs.

New York is requesting \$13.52 billion over 5 years to implement the next significant improvement to Medicaid. This is known as "the Medicaid Waiver."