

12-month Continuous Eligibility for Children on Medicaid

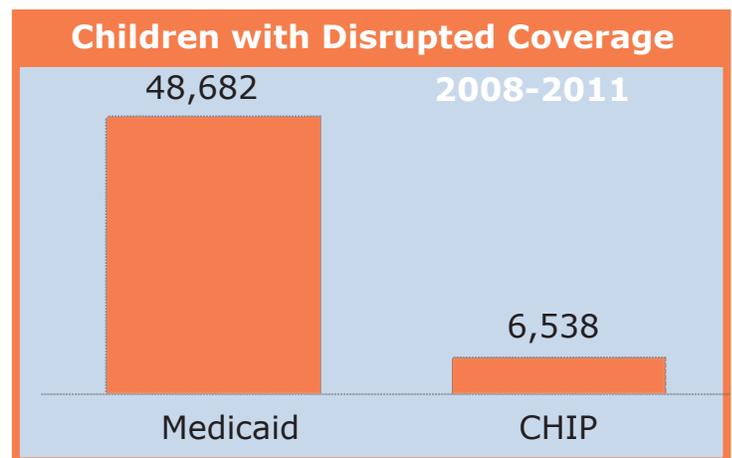
Continuous eligibility is a state option that allows children ages 0-18 to maintain Medicaid coverage for one full year, even if families experience a change in income or family status. By implementing continuous eligibility, Utah could ensure that for 365 days a year children get—and keep—health coverage.¹

When children are enrolled in a program for 12 continuous months, they can receive appropriate preventive care. Families do not have to delay treatment for medical issues or emergencies that arise. Stable coverage enables providers to establish relationships with children to make sure their health and development is on track.²

Without continuous eligibility, parents are penalized for trying to improve their family's economic circumstances through temporary or seasonal work. In many cases, families must drop out of Medicaid after securing temporary or seasonal work. When the short-term job ends, they must re-enroll to receive benefits. This creates an unnecessary burden for families.

Continuous eligibility is already available to children enrolled in CHIP, but not to children enrolled in Medicaid.

Continuous eligibility leads to significantly fewer disruptions in health insurance coverage for children enrolled in CHIP compared to children enrolled in Medicaid. By implementing continuous eligibility for the CHIP program, Utah stabilized access to healthcare for eligible children. Meanwhile, 18% of children in Medicaid continue to have disrupted access to healthcare.



1. Georgetown Center for Children and Families. (March 2009). Program Design Snapshot: 12 Month Continuous Eligibility. Available at <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/CE-program-snapshot.pdf>

2. Irvin, Carol, et al. Discontinuous coverage in Medicaid and the implications of 12-month continuous coverage for children. No. 3110. Mathematica Policy Research, 2001. Available at <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/~media/publications/PDFs/discontinuous.pdf>

Voices for Utah Children supports 12-month Continuous Eligibility for Children on Medicaid.



Twelve-month eligibility is a critical way to make sure that Utah children have health insurance the entire year.

All children should have access to healthcare without disruptions in coverage.

