

Preventing Crime Through CHIP

Securing savings by getting troubled youth on the right track

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) helps prevent crime by connecting youth with critical mental health services.

What CHIP does

CHIP provides low-cost health insurance to children in families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private insurance.¹ Over 8.4 million children—one in ten kids in the U.S.—were enrolled in 2016.²

The federal government covers 90% of the cost of CHIP, while states play a greater role in running the program.³ Twenty-nine states have combined CHIP/Medicaid programs, 8 states cover CHIP kids through Medicaid, and 13 states have stand-alone CHIP programs.⁴

CHIP helps prevent crime

- **Helping juvenile offenders get back on track:** Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Multisystemic Therapy (MST) can be provided through CHIP in 37 states.⁵ These evidence-based therapies help prevent juvenile justice-involved youth from reoffending by engaging parents in their child's well-being. Among previously incarcerated youth, FFT has been proven to cut re-arrests in half, and youth not receiving MST were 3.5 times more likely to be arrested for a violent felony than those who received MST.⁶ Moreover,



FFT saves taxpayers and victims over \$30,000 per child served, while MST saves them almost \$25,000 per child served.⁷

- **Treating mental health issues:** CHIP provides kids diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance (SED) with extensive services in several states, including case management, crisis intervention and in-home therapy in Connecticut, and unlimited mental health services in California.⁸ In absence of these services, a study of SED youth found that

almost half had involvement with the justice system, while another study found that they were roughly 13 times more likely to be arrested than their non-SED counterparts.⁹

Two decades of success

Since CHIP's enactment, the rate of uninsured children has dropped from 14% in 1997 to an all-time-low of 5% in 2016.¹⁰ CHIP has received bipartisan support from Congress, governors, and state legislatures.

Reauthorizing CHIP improves public safety

CHIP funding will expire on September 30, 2017 without action from Congress. Without reauthorization, thousands of kids will not receive the mental health or therapeutic interventions they need to be successful students. Absence of these services could lead some to committing a first offense or reoffending, which may result in a lifetime of crime.

¹ 200%-300% of poverty. CMS (2017). "Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Levels."

² CMS (2016) 2015 Number Ever Enrolled Report.

³ CMS (2017). Kaiser Family Foundation (2014).

⁴ Kaiser Family Foundation. (2015) "CHIP Program Name and Type."

⁵ In the 37 states that utilize Medicaid in some form; MST Services. (2015). MST – Funding & Medicaid Standards; Personal Communication 2017 with Helen M. Midouhas, M.S. Ed., L.P.C., FFT National Trainer & Consultant.

⁶ Alexander et al (2001). Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence; Sawyer, A.M., & Borduin, C.M. (2011). Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 79(5), 643-652.

⁷ Lee, S., et al. (2012). Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

⁸ U.S. GAO. (2002). "Mental Health Services: Effectiveness of Insurance Coverage and Federal Programs for Children who Have Experienced Trauma Largely Unknown"; Fox, et al. (2000). The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.

⁹ Campaign for Youth Justice. (2016). "Key Facts: Youth in the Justice System"; Doren, B. et al. (1996). Journal of Special Education, v29 n4 p363-80

¹⁰ CDC (2017). "Early Release of Selected Estimates Based on Data From the NHIS." (2016)

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

Thousands of police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and violence survivors protecting public safety by promoting solutions that steer kids away from crime

Council for a Strong America is a national, bipartisan nonprofit that unites five organizations comprised of law enforcement leaders, retired admirals and generals, business executives, pastors, and prominent coaches and athletes who promote solutions that ensure our next generation of Americans will be citizen-ready.

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