



## 2016 All Kids Covered Policy Priorities

The 2016 All Kids Covered policy priorities include legislative, regulatory, and when appropriate, ballot initiatives. Members of the AKC Coalition had the opportunity to weigh in on what priorities should be included. These priorities reflect AKC's unique position as a non-partisan coalition advocating for sound policy to reduce the number of uninsured children in Colorado, and improve access to and the quality of health care for Colorado's kids. A [separate memo](#) explains AKC's decision-making protocols and resulting actions concerning legislation.

### 1. The Design of Phase II of the Accountable Care Collaborative

The Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) program is the primary Medicaid delivery system in the state of Colorado. The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is proposing to make enrollment into the ACC program simultaneous with enrollment into the Medicaid program, meaning that this redesign will impact all parts of the Colorado Medicaid program, which provides insurance coverage for more than one-third of Colorado kids. The redesign provides an opportunity to advocate for an improved health system for Colorado children. AKC has developed [a set of recommendations](#) to improve the design of Phase II of the ACC program for children and families.

These recommendations include:

- increasing the focus on children's developmental and behavioral screenings;
- ensuring that new Medicaid clients are connected to necessary medical and non-medical services;
- holding regional contractors and providers accountable for the quality of care provided to children and pregnant women, including subpopulations defined by race, ethnicity, income and other characteristics;
- ensuring access to integrated primary and behavioral health care for kids;
- ensuring that health care is appropriate to culture, language and ability;
- improving data sharing across systems that support the health and well-being of children;
- providing additional services and a higher level of care to Colorado children during sensitive periods

### 2. Addressing Constitutional Budgetary Constraints

Colorado's complicated constitutional revenue requirements limit the power and flexibility of our state legislature and its ability to address the critical needs of Colorado's kids. These include access to quality health care, healthy early development opportunities, and a quality education. AKC is supportive of common sense budget solutions, including, but not limited to, the temporary solution provided by moving the Hospital Provider Fee funds into a government-funded enterprise, and a wider conversation with Colorado voters regarding these issues.

### 3. Medicaid Primary Care Reimbursement

Constitutional budget constraints will force legislators to cut state spending for the upcoming 2016-2017 budget. To meet these requirements, Governor John Hickenlooper's office proposed a roughly 25 percent cut to primary care payment rates in the Medicaid program beginning in July 2016. This cut will threaten access to medical homes and quality primary care for the more than 500,000 children who have health insurance through Colorado Medicaid – especially those in rural



areas. AKC supports common sense solutions to avoid these drastic cuts for our front-line health care providers.

#### **4. Future of CHP+**

The future of Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) in Colorado is uncertain and dependent on federal financing decisions. The program is fully funded until September 30, 2017, though it is legally authorized to operate until September 30, 2019. This brings up many questions about maintenance of effort requirements and Colorado's budgetary flexibility to meet these requirements. In the longer term, the state has to figure out a plan for the future, including a potential alternative to CHP+ should the state choose not to continue the program as it stands today. AKC will continue to prioritize policy options that provide affordable, high-quality health insurance that continues to meet the needs of the children and pregnant women currently covered by CHP+ in Colorado.