

THE FIRST 1,000 DAYS: MEDICAID'S CRITICAL ROLE



The first 1,000 days of a child's life are a critical window for development. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) dramatically increases the potential for impeding early brain development and leading to life-long negative health and social outcomes.



MEDICAID'S UNIQUE ROLE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Medicaid is uniquely positioned to identify and connect at-risk young children (ages 0-3) in low-income families with needed health, developmental, and social services — increasing the odds that children get a good start in life.



Medicaid covers almost half of babies born in the United States and 40 percent of all children



Medicaid is one of the social institutions most likely to have regular contact with infants from low-income families in the first 1,000 days of their lives



Medicaid requires coverage for developmental screenings and other preventive care that are important for identifying concerns early

MAXIMIZING MEDICAID'S WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

There are key opportunities for state Medicaid agencies, their health plan contractors, and their early childhood state agency counterparts to support high-risk, low-income families:



Integrate data across agencies



Use data to target the highest risk children and families



Identify assessment tools and shared metrics



Build state and community partnerships



Co-create new clinical/social care models and community linkages



To learn more, visit www.chcs.org/aligning-early-childhood-and-medicaid/.

CHCS Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc.