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 life-long negative health and social outcomes.

Medicaid is uniquely positioned to identify and connect at-risk 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.

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

- Integrating data across sectors
- Using data to target the highest risk children and families
- Identifying assessment tools and shared metrics
- Building state and community partnerships
- Creating new clinical models and community linkages

To learn more, visit [www.chcs.org/medicaid-early-childhood-lab/](http://www.chcs.org/medicaid-early-childhood-lab/).

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