REDUCING CHILDHOOD OBESITY THROUGH MEDICAID-PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATION

How five states are spurring innovation through cross-sector partnership

THE ISSUE AND THE OPPORTUNITY

Nearly **one in six children in the U.S. is obese**, contributing to increased risks for many chronic conditions later in life.

Obesity often **affects low-income families** who typically face many social challenges — including poverty, early adversity, and trauma.

Medicaid and public health partnership creates an opportunity to address this epidemic using the agencies’ respective strengths.

INNOVATIONS IN CHILDHOOD OBESITY INITIATIVE

The Center for Health Care Strategies engaged Medicaid and public health leaders in five states:

- **ARIZONA**
- **MARYLAND**
- **OKLAHOMA**
- **OREGON**
- **TEXAS**

Activities focused on the **development**, **testing**, and **dissemination** of innovative approaches to reducing obesity prevalence among low-income children.

Efforts emerging from this work include:

- Creating clinical processes and tools to facilitate treatment
- Training peer health workers
- Adopting childhood obesity incentive measures
- Partnering with schools
- Embedding dietitians in community settings

NEXT STEPS FOR THE FIELD

- **Encourage Medicaid testing of innovative approaches to reduce childhood obesity**
- **Consider other sectors to involve in addressing social determinants of health linked to obesity**
- **Assess new comprehensive, collaborative frameworks to address obesity and related social issues**
- **Target interventions for children with the greatest need and opportunity for impact**
- **Conduct structured evaluations to build an evidence base and identify best practices**

To learn more, visit the **Innovations in Childhood Obesity Resource Center** at: [www.chcs.org/childhood-obesity-resource-center/](http://www.chcs.org/childhood-obesity-resource-center/).

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