

# 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

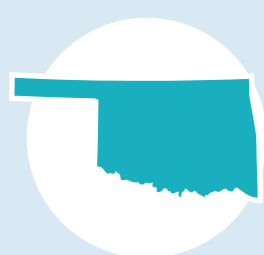
The Center for Health Care Strategies engaged Medicaid and public health leaders in five states:



ARIZONA



MARYLAND



OKLAHOMA



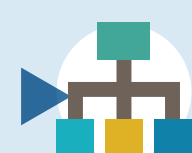
OREGON



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/).

**CHCS** Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc.