

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 life-long negative health and social outcomes.



MEDICAID'S UNIQUE ROLE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

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.



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



Publicly financed health care is the social institution most likely to have regular contact with children ages 0-3 in low-income families



Medicaid guarantees coverage for developmental screenings and other preventive care that is important for identifying concerns early

MAXIMIZING MEDICAID'S WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

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/.

CHCS Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc.