The Importance of MassHealth for Children

As the source of health coverage for more than four in 10 children, MassHealth plays a particularly important role in ensuring the health and well-being of low-income children in Massachusetts.

INCREASES HEALTH CARE COVERAGE AND ACCESS TO CHILD-SPECIFIC SERVICES NEEDED FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT

- MassHealth covers many parents, which improves health outcomes and well-being for children.
- Children enrolled in Medicaid are more likely to have routine check-ups and less likely to forgo needed medical care than children covered by employer-sponsored insurance.
- Unlike typical commercial health coverage, MassHealth provides children of all ages with broad access to services, including child-specific services (such as speech or occupational therapy), without fixed limits if the services are needed to correct or improve a health condition that can affect growth or development.

IMPROVES LIFELONG LEARNING AND WELL-BEING

- On average, children with Medicaid coverage have better health in adulthood—including fewer hospitalizations and lower rates of chronic disease—than those without insurance coverage.
- Expanding Medicaid eligibility for children is associated with better academic test scores and less likelihood of dropping out of school.

OFFSETS COSTS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED IN SCHOOLS

- Children who receive health care services in school miss fewer school days and are better equipped to learn.
- For every $1 invested in school health services, Massachusetts saves $2.20 from avoided medical procedures, increased teacher productivity, and decreased parent loss of work time.
- Through its School-Based Medicaid Program in state fiscal year 2019, the Commonwealth received nearly $97 million in federal reimbursement to help offset the costs of providing Medicaid-covered services to children and adolescents in school.

For more information on the Importance of MassHealth for Children, see the full issue brief at https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/sites/g/files/cspwhs2101/files/2021-06/MH_Impact_Children_brief_FINAL.pdf.