HUSKY Health for Children and Families in Connecticut: Medicaid and Education

School districts nationwide receive $4 billion a year in Medicaid reimbursements for:

- professionals who provide basic health services for all students—including, for example, asthma and diabetes management and mental health services
- support services for special education students in accordance with an Individualized Education Program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

How does Medicaid support early childhood programs?

Medicaid supports early childhood evaluations and interventions that prepare young children for school through programs like Birth to 3.

Birth to Three provides evaluation and programming for families with young children who may be experiencing a developmental delay. Early identification and intervention can help children reach their full potential.

- In 2017, 5,557 children in Connecticut were eligible for services
- Medicaid billing brought $14 million in funding to Birth to 3 in 2017
Incentives, training, and new codes for tracking screening resulted in a 25% increase in total screening and a 58% increase in behavioral health screening for children from 2015-2016.* Note: this data is based on billing codes and so is limited to a subset of Medicaid enrollees.

Why does screening matter? Imagine a child is two years old and does not yet say any words. An early screening could identify a hearing impairment or early signs of a developmental delay. Appropriate treatment, whether hearing aids and speech therapy or developmental supports, can promote social and educational success.

Developmental and behavioral health services

Federal law requires that Medicaid* provide comprehensive services from birth to 21, including screening and treatment for developmental and behavioral health needs. Given the high rate of exposure to trauma among lower income children, this protection is vital to ensuring that all children and youth can access the support they need to succeed in school and in life.

How does Medicaid support school-based health centers?

- School-based health centers reach 25 Connecticut communities at 93 sites
- School-based health centers serve 46,000 children annually
- Over 50% of participants in school-based health centers are enrolled in Medicaid

*HUSKY A is Connecticut's Medicaid program for children. Benefits available to children in HUSKY B (Connecticut's CHIP program) differ somewhat. See ctvoices.org/HUSKYManual