

# 12-MONTH CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY

By adopting continuous eligibility, Missouri can allow children to maintain their Medicaid health coverage for a full year, stabilizing coverage and ensuring consistent care, without the state needing to process additional paperwork.



**Kids who have health insurance without gaps have better outcomes.**

When kids have continuous coverage:

- Their doctors get to know them & can provide better care.
- They get the care they need to control chronic conditions and stay healthy.
- They miss fewer days of school & learn better.
- They are more likely to finish school & earn more money as adults.



**Because Medicaid coverage in Missouri is based on monthly income, modest fluctuations in family income can result in kids losing eligibility for Medicaid & CHIP temporarily.**

- Parents with shifting hours, like those who work in retail or service industries, can see modest income changes from month-to-month. Farmers and seasonal workers also generate much of their income during peak season, which may render their children temporarily ineligible for Medicaid & CHIP.
- These fluctuations in family income result in kids cycling on & off of Medicaid coverage throughout the year.
- This “churn” in Medicaid not only disrupts access to coverage and preventive care for kids, but the potential loss of coverage can act as a disincentive for overtime for parents who are concerned that temporary pay increases would harm their child.



**States that have implemented 12-month continuous eligibility have reduced churn, decreasing unnecessary administrative & hospitalization costs.**

- Churning can cost a state \$400 to \$600 per person per episode (disenrolling and reenrolling one time) due to administrative costs alone.
- State-paid medical costs also increase due to churning when patients lose Medicaid coverage temporarily and can't access affordable preventive services and routine medical & dental care, resulting in more expensive emergency room visits or treatment.