A CRITICAL OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE CHILD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
QUESTION 1: WHAT ARE EFFECTIVE PRACTICES TO REDUCE POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN?

1. A. Screen all families for food insecurity and poverty
2. B. Give families screening positive to list of resources
3. C. Promote SNAP, WIC, and Child Tax Credit
4. D. Facilitate enrollment of Medicaid Members in SNAP, WIC, CTC
5. E. Integrate WIC with healthcare visits when possible
**QUESTION II**

What percentage of eligible families in Colorado are enrolled in WIC?

| A. 90% | B. 80% | C. 70% | D. 60% | E. 50% |
QUESTION III

What percent of eligible Medicaid Members (Health First) in Colorado are enrolled in SNAP?

A. 90%   B. 80%   C. 70%   D. 60%   E. 50%
QUESTION IV

What percent of Medicaid Members are eligible for WIC?

A. 100%   B. 90%   C. 80%   D. 60%   E. 50%
PREVALENCE OF CHILDHOOD POVERTY BY ETHNICITY 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>9.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>12.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>15.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>15.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>22.30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Center on Poverty and Social Policy 2021
COVID-19 INCREASES CHILD FOOD INSECURITY AND DISPARITIES

Brookings Institute: Census Household Pulse Survey July 2020
POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY ARE ASSOCIATED WITH POORER CHILD OUTCOMES

• Impaired physical and mental health
• Low birthweight
• Structural brain changes
• Lower educational attainment
• Greater likelihood of risky behaviors, delinquency, and criminal behavior

Earlier in life and longer exposure increase risk to child

AAP Poverty and Child Health in the United States, 2016
AAP Promoting Food Security for All Children, 2015
HOW POVERTY IMPACTS CHILD OUTCOMES

National Academy of Sciences: A Roadmap to End Child Poverty, 2019
Predicted to decrease child poverty by 40-50% with key programs:

Increase and Expansion of Eligibility for Tax Credits
• The Child Tax Credit: $3,000 (ages 6-18y) and $3,600 (under 6y)
• The Earned Income Tax Credit –max $1500

Increase in Federal Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits
• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit increase
• The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) fruit and vegetable benefit increase
DEMONSTRATED BENEFITS OF TAX CREDITS, SNAP, AND WIC

• Improved food and economic security
• Decrease in incidence of low birth weight
• Improved parental mental health and child behavior
• Increase in development and educational outcomes
• Decrease in incidence of metabolic disease as adults (SNAP participation early in life)
• Decreased healthcare costs

https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25246/a-roadmap-to-reducing-child-poverty
THE ROLE OF HEALTHCARE IN DECREASING POVERTY

**Promote**
- Inform families of CTC, SNAP, WIC
- Promote the health benefits of these programs

**Ask**
- Ask all families if they have filed their taxes
- Ask all Medicaid Members if they are enrolled in SNAP/WIC

**Assist**
- Inform families of free tax filing assistance (see flyers)
- Facilitate enrollment in SNAP and WIC (see toolkit)
• Previous child tax provided income to households with children but excluded poorest
• Eligibility expanded to include poorest children; predominantly children of color
• 90% of Colorado families are eligible for the benefit
• Benefit increased to $3,600 for children under 6 years, $3,000 for 6-18y
• Resources for families in Colorado:
  Co.Taxpayer Advocate: 303-603-4600
  https://www.irs.gov/advocate/local-taxpayer-advocate
  Co.VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance):
  800-906-9887, https://www.coloradovita.org/
  * Non-filer sign-up tool
  https://www.freefilefillableforms.com/#!/fd/childtaxcredit
• Provides financial assistance to low-income households with children who work

• Max benefit increased from $543 to $1502

• State match may increase if bill passes

• Resources for families in Colorado:
  Co. Taxpayer Advocate: 303-603-4600
  https://www.irs.gov/advocate/local-taxpayer-advocate

SNAP

• Largest anti-hunger program- benefits increased

• Majority of Medicaid Members are eligible

• SNAP participants qualify for free school meal program & pandemic EBT

• Enrollment: PEAK on-line referral, call 211
  visit county human service departments,
  https://hungerfreecolorado.org/find-food/

• Citizenship status is no longer impacted by SNAP participation (public charge)
• All Medicaid Members are eligible, no citizenship requirement

• WIC provides nutritious food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support

• Enrollment:
  call WIC office
  https://www.coloradowic.gov/find-wic-clinic
  or send a WIC on-line referral
  https://www.healthinformatics.dphe.state.co.us/WICSignUp
**FAMILY DRIVEN ORGANIZATIONS**

- **Family Voices CO, Christy Blakely**
  Christy@familyvoicesco.org
  https://familyvoicesco.org
  303-877-1747

- **Parent to Parent of Colorado, Lisa Franklin**
  lfranklinp2p@abilityconnectioncolorado.org
  www.p2p-co.org
  877-472-7201

- **El Grupo Vida, Elisa Aucancela**
  elisa@el grupovida.org
  https://el grupovida.org
  303-335-9875

- **Family to Family Health Information Center**
  alissa@thrivectr.org
  https://thrivectr.org
  303-733-3000
ADVOCATE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY

• Expand Child Tax Credit beyond this year
• Adequate SNAP and WIC Benefits
• Living Wage
• Quality Early Child Education for all children
• Improve access to Long-Acting Reversible Contraception