



Covering Kids is a national health access initiative for low-income, uninsured children. The program was made possible from a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is designed to address the following three goals:

1. Design and conduct outreach programs in pilot communities that identify and enroll eligible children into Medicaid and *hawk-i*.
2. Simplify the Medicaid and *hawk-i* enrollment process.
3. Coordinate existing coverage programs for low-income children.

The Iowa Covering Kids Project is a statewide collaborative effort of state and local community-based agencies, child advocacy groups, and professional organizations designed to address the above three goals. The statewide component, led by the State Covering Kids Coalition and supported by the Iowa Department of Public Health, seeks to identify actual barriers to enrollment into child health insurance programs and implement system changes to remove barriers. State level partners include the Iowa Medical Society and Siouxland Health Center. Local pilots in Linn and Marion County are working on implementing innovative strategies for enrolling children and duplicating those strategies in other areas of the state.

#### Expected Outcomes

- Every child entering the education, human services, health and childcare system will be asked if they have health insurance and will be referred to a “point of entry” if needed.
- Actual barriers to Medicaid enrollment and *hawk-i* are identified and policy and/or legislative changes are recommended by the Iowa Covering Kids Coalition
- Pilot strategies in local communities address actual barriers to enrollment in child health insurance policies
- Establishment of a sustaining child advocacy coalition to address child health and safety issues

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