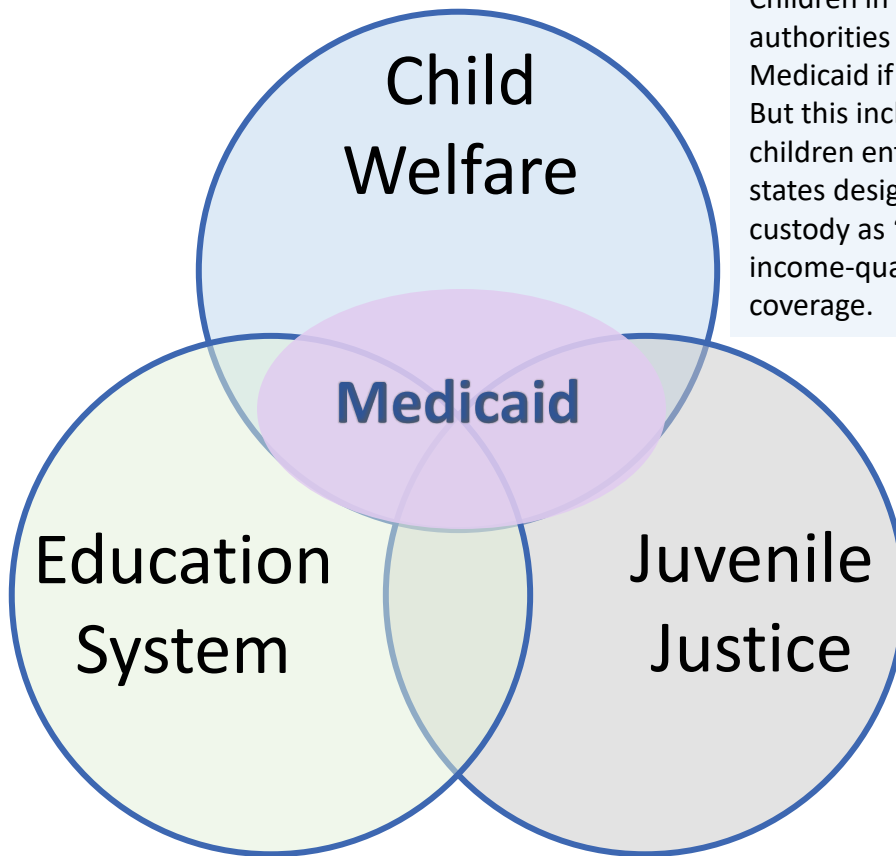


# How Medicaid works in a SoC

## Medicaid Eligibility by System of Care (SoC) partner



Children in the custody of Child Welfare authorities automatically qualify for Medicaid if they are Title IV-E eligible. But this includes only about half of the children entering foster care. Many states designate children in state custody as 'families of one,' in order to income-qualify them for Medicaid coverage.

Youth in the Juvenile Justice system cannot receive Medicaid benefits if they are incarcerated, though they may retain their Medicaid eligibility. If they are briefly held and then released to the community, the State's income and medical necessity criteria determine eligibility.

Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) who are income-qualified for Medicaid can use Medicaid as a payor of first resort for treatment services. But the family must authorize the school to use Medicaid. More recently, Medicaid has approved schools as treatment settings for non-IEP services and covers services that include connecting families to Medicaid.

*Flip to page 2 for more detail, sources, and links!*

# How Medicaid works in a SoC

## Medicaid Eligibility by System of Care (SoC) partner

### Context

Children and youth are often involved in multiple government systems. How do they access behavioral health care within and across these different systems? We briefly look at key features of how three systems use Medicaid to serve children with behavioral health needs: Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare and Education.

### Juvenile Justice

Youth in the Juvenile Justice system can access Medicaid behavioral health treatment services under two conditions. First, [youth cannot be incarcerated](#), or inmates in state custody. Second, they need to meet the State Plan requirements for eligibility in the state that they reside. [A recently approved pilot program](#) provides Medicaid benefits for incarcerated youth up to 90-days before community re-entry, indicating that incarceration prohibition may be changing.

### Child Welfare

There are [three primary pathways](#) by which a child in foster care can access Medicaid. First, if the child is [Title IV-E eligible](#), they are categorically eligible for Medicaid. Second, many states recognize children removed from their homes as a 'family of one,' which income-qualifies the child for Medicaid benefits. Third, children in Child Welfare custody are required to have a timely developmental assessment. The results of that assessment may qualify them for Medicaid as a member of a covered population.

### Education

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has worked to make Medicaid-funded services [much more available in schools](#). Medicaid can reimburse schools for universal interventions provided to Medicaid-eligible students. Independent treatment providers can also bill Medicaid directly for treatment services provided at schools. Schools can also seek reimbursement for treatment services provided to income-eligible students per their Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP) plan.