

Thursday, September 10, 2026

1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

600 E. Broad Street

Richmond, VA 23219

To Join Meeting Virtually:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/27946107961529?p=a4zBWCt4Trule3vcSh>

Remote Conference Captioning Link:

<https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=HamiltonRelayRCC-0910-VA4441>

AGENDA

#	Item	Approx. Time
I.	Welcome and Announcements <i>Joanna Fowler, CHIPAC Chair</i>	1:00 – 1:05 PM
II.	CHIPAC Business A. Review/approval of minutes from June 4, 2026 meeting B. Membership updates C. 2027 Meeting Dates	1:05 – 1:15 PM
III.	Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) Updates <i>Mariam Siddiqui, Senior Advisory to the Agency Head, DMAS</i>	1:15 – 1:20 PM
IV.	Highlights from Virginia's 2026-2028 Biennial Budget <i>Cat Pelletier, Chief Financial Officer, DMAS</i>	1:20 – 1:30 PM
IV.	CHIPAC Member Orientation/Re-Orientation and Refresher on Children's Eligibility for Medicaid/FAMIS <i>Emily Roller, Senior Management Analyst, DMAS Policy Division</i> <i>Joanna Fowler, Chief Policy & Strategy Officer, Virginia Health Care Foundation</i>	1:30 – 2:30 PM
V.	Federal Policy Options to Increase Children's Coverage <i>Anne Dwyer, Associate Research Professor, Georgetown University Center for Children & Families</i>	2:30 – 3:15 PM
VI.	Agenda for December 10, 2026 CHIPAC Meeting	3:15 – 3:25 PM
VII.	Public Comment	3:25 – 3:30 PM

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency. Please notify the DMAS Civil Rights Coordinator at (804) 482-7269, or civilrightscoordinator@dmass.virginia.gov, at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting to make arrangements.



Children's Health Insurance Program
Advisory Committee of Virginia

DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2026

A quorum of the full Committee attended this virtual meeting. The Microsoft Teams link was made available for members of the public to attend.

The following CHIPAC members were present at this meeting:

- **Jennifer Macdonald** Virginia Department of Health
- **Alexandra Javna** Virginia Department of Education
- **Hanna Hudson** Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- **Irma Blackwell** Virginia Department of Social Services
- **Joanna Fowler** Virginia Health Care Foundation
- **Kelly Cannon** Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association
- **Breanna Sharer** Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (*substitute for Laura Harker*)
- **Heidi Dix** Virginia Association of Health Plans
- **Dr. Susan Brown** American Academy of Pediatrics (VA Chapter)
- **Lauren Eggleton** Virginia Health Catalyst
- **Victoria Richardson** Virginia Poverty Law Center
- **Martha Crosby** Virginia Community Healthcare Association
- **Tiffany Gordon** Virginia League of Social Services Executives
- **Eli Weinger** Voices for Virginia's Children (*substitute for Liz Nigro*)

The following CHIPAC members were not present:

- **Sarah Stanton** Joint Commission on Health Care
- **Kenda Sutton-El** Birth in Color

I. Welcome and Announcements: CHIPAC Vice Chair Joanna Fowler called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM and reviewed the agenda.

II. CHIPAC Business:

A. Review/Approval of minutes from March 5, 2026 meeting. Jennifer Macdonald introduced a motion to approve the minutes, which Tiffany Gordon seconded. Members voted unanimously to approve.

B. Membership updates. Fowler welcomed Lauren Eggleton (Virginia Health Catalyst) and thanked Kelly Cannon and Victoria Richardson for renewing their memberships on CHIPAC for another two years. Fowler noted that former Chair

Freddy Mejia has moved into a new role as Deputy Secretary of Finance for the Commonwealth and will no longer serve on CHIPAC.

- C. Officer Election:** Emily Roller, DMAS Policy Division, reviewed the duties of the CHIPAC Chair and called for nominations. Tiffany Gordon nominated Joanna Fowler to serve as Chair. No other nominations were made. CHIPAC members unanimously elected Joanna Fowler to serve as Chair.

Upon Fowler's assumption of the role of Chair there is a vacancy in the Vice Chair position. Roller opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Fowler nominated Jen Macdonald (Virginia Department of Health). No other nominations were made, and Macdonald was elected unanimously.

- III. VA Rural Vitality – Virginia's Rural Health Transformation Program:** Heidi Hertz, Executive Director, Virginia Office of Rural Health Transformation, shared that the federal Rural Health Transformation Program was established in *House Resolution 1* (Public Law 119-21, 119th Congress) in 2025. Virginia was awarded \$189.5 million for Year 1, which will be administered by DMAS.

Year 1 dollars must be obligated soon but may be spent into 2027. Federal funds are expected to be redistributed based on how states use them. States who do not use their funding will see reductions in future years with funds redistributed to other states. Virginia's RHTP dollars will be used to support four initiatives: *CareIQ* (modernizes healthcare via technology and data solutions); *Homegrown Health Heroes* (expands the rural health workforce and creates pathways for rural residents to pursue healthcare careers); *Connected Care, Closer to Home* (localizes healthcare resources, including specialists); and *Live Well, Together* (supports prevention and chronic disease management). Current efforts are focused on aligning with federal requirements, building public communication channels, and developing subrecipient agreements.

- IV. H.R. 1 Medicaid Expansion Work Requirement – Medical Frailty Framework:** Mariam Siddiqui, Senior Advisor to the DMAS Director, shared that the June 1 CMS Interim Final Rule about work requirement implementation adds limitations to the medical frailty exemption that Virginia and other states are still reviewing. DMAS and other states are continuing to adjust other operational plans based on the guidance. Today's presentation will convey what the state has completed to-date but with the caveat that it is subject to change based on the June 1 guidance and other forthcoming guidance from CMS.

Dr. Greg Barabell, DMAS Chief Medical Officer, gave an overview of the framework Virginia had used to develop its "medically frail" initial code list. As Mariam Siddiqui referenced, the new CMS guidance has shifted medical frailty from a diagnosis basis alone to the presence of a condition plus a deeper look at whether the condition also makes it difficult for an individual to comply with the work requirement. DMAS has conducted a thorough clinical review to include diagnostic, procedure, and pharmaceutical codes in its code list.

Deepa Harsh, DMAS Information and Analytics Coordinator for Complex Care, shared that DMAS's analysis for will look back at least one year at all the diagnosis codes, services utilized connected to these diagnosis codes, and pharmacy codes.

Depending upon the condition, the state may use a longer reference period, and will incorporate clinical risk level into its comprehensive analysis.

Jen Macdonald noted that VDH screens for certain genetic disorders and wondered the degree to which those may be included within the state's diagnosis code list. Dr. Barabell, a pediatrician by background, responded noting that throughout an individual's lifespan different disorders may appear differently, and that examining conditions longitudinally will be important.

- V. Enrollment in Children's Medicaid/FAMIS Health Coverage:** Emily Roller, DMAS Policy Division, shared an update on monthly net enrollment of children in Medicaid and FAMIS, using the standard CHIPAC quarterly enrollment dashboards. CHIPAC members expressed interest in data about health utilization by children, and/or data about use of early and adequate prenatal care by pregnant women and postpartum utilization. Roller suggested that CHIPAC may benefit from a future presentation about the annual Maternal and Child Health Focus Study conducted by DMAS in collaboration with an External Quality Review Organization, in addition to an examination of what data may be most useful in CHIPAC dashboards.

2026 Profile of Virginia's Uninsured: Joanna Fowler, Chief Policy and Strategy Officer for the Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF), presented the annual *Profile* developed in partnership with The Urban Institute, and noted the full *Profile* is available online on VHCF's website. After reaching a historic low in 2023, Virginia's uninsurance rate increased in 2024. There are an estimated 573,000 Virginians without health insurance, including 100,000 children. Of the estimated number of uninsured kids, the vast majority (81,000) are U.S. citizens. About half are estimated to be income-eligible for Medicaid/FAMIS.

- VI. Agenda for September 10, 2026 CHIPAC meeting:** Fowler opened the floor for suggestions for possible future topics, and noted that the CHIPAC Executive Subcommittee had suggested a presentation about school health services given the back-to-school timeframe, and a presentation on VDH's Plan for Wellbeing.

- VII. Public Comment:** Fowler opened the floor for public comment. Eleanor Sullivan, Virginia Poverty Law Center, commented that VPLC's Enroll Virginia program's statewide system of health care navigators are seeing children and parents withdrawing or foregoing enrollment because of immigration enforcement concerns. Sullivan further noted that proposed changes to federal change-of-address forms include introducing questions about non-citizens' use of means-tested public benefits. National organizations are concerned about potential for fraud accusations over minor errors in these forms. State agencies should be aware because of the potential for administrative/reporting burden if non-citizens asks for assistance in confirming public benefit details.

Fowler opened the floor for additional public comment. None was made. The meeting adjourned at 3:21pm.



Candidate Biographical Sketch – Eleanor Sullivan, Virginia Poverty Law Center

Eleanor Sullivan is a Senior Policy Analyst with Virginia Poverty Law Center, where she conducts administrative advocacy, supports VPLC's state lobbying, and is on the administrative team for EnrollVA, VPLC's health Navigator organization. Prior to joining VPLC, she practiced immigration law at Catholic Charities as a Department of Justice accredited legal representative and worked at Central Virginia Poverty Law Center as an EnrollVA Navigator



Candidate Questionnaire – Eleanor Sullivan, Virginia Poverty Law Center

The mission of Virginia's CHIP Advisory Committee (CHIPAC) is to advise the Director of DMAS and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources on ways to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of DMAS' programs that address the health needs of children (FAMIS/CHIP and FAMIS Plus/Medicaid).

- 1. Please describe the experience and qualifications you will bring to the CHIPAC, including those specifically related to children's health/health insurance. Please also include examples of your commitment to supporting and improving public medical assistance programs.**

I have over five years of experience working at Virginia legal aid organizations, where I assisted with hundreds of Medicaid/CHIP applications before moving into a Medicaid advocacy role. I joined Central Virginia Legal Aid Society as a certified Navigator in late 2020, helping families—especially noncitizens and mixed-status families—enroll their children in Medicaid or CHIP coverage.

At the end of 2022, I became a Medicaid Policy Analyst with Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC), where I've focused on MAGI Medicaid matters, including children's access to coverage. In the last couple of years, I've split my focus between federal and state advocacy.

At the federal policy level, I prepared VPLC's public comments on how DHS' public charge rule will harm children, responded to lawmaker questions about proposed public benefits fraud bills, and educated Virginians on the harmful impacts of HR1 to the state's children.

My state policy work has spanned administrative advocacy and public outreach. I've communicated with DMAS and VDSS officials about how to improve Medicaid notices, revamp CommonHelp functions, prepare for HR1 immigrant eligibility cuts, facilitate pregnancy Medicaid applications, and educate LDSS eligibility workers on noncitizen children's eligibility. I've also prepared messaging campaigns on Medicaid unwinding, written public-facing FAQs on CMS-DHS Medicaid data-sharing, and presented multiple webinars on immigrant access to public health programs in Virginia.

2. What motivates you to participate in CHIPAC? What are your goals and priorities as a member of the Committee?

I'm excited about participating in CHIPAC because I'm concerned about the adverse impact that federal public charge guidance and HR1 will have—even if indirectly—on children's access to Medicaid/CHIP. With enrollment already declining in our children's programs, I worry that these federal rule changes will increase kids' uninsured rates in Virginia. I would like to work with CHIPAC to address voluntary disenrollment from children's Medicaid/CHIP programs, combat misinformation about immigrant access to Medicaid/CHIP, and propose administrative solutions to improve Medicaid "churn."



Candidate Biographical Sketch – Eli Weinger, Voices for Virginia’s Children

Eli Weinger is a Health Equity Policy Analyst for Voices for Virginia’s Children. He has experience with both quantitative and qualitative research during his time at UVA where he earned an undergraduate degree in Politics with a concentration in American Government and a Master’s in Leadership and Public Policy. For his applied policy project, Eli worked to provide the Virginia Poverty Law Center with recommendations to stem the rising tide of SNAP disenrollment and forgone enrollment amongst eligible immigrant families amidst unprecedented federal changes at the intersection of immigration and public benefits policy. As Virginia’s youth continue to suffer from the ongoing mental health crisis, Eli joined Voices in his desire to ensure that every child in Virginia has the resources they need to not just survive but thrive.



Candidate Questionnaire – Eli Weinger, Voices for Virginia’s Children

The mission of Virginia’s CHIP Advisory Committee (CHIPAC) is to advise the Director of DMAS and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources on ways to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of DMAS’ programs that address the health needs of children (FAMIS/CHIP and FAMIS Plus/Medicaid).

- 1. Please describe the experience and qualifications you will bring to the CHIPAC, including those specifically related to children’s health/health insurance. Please also include examples of your commitment to supporting and improving public medical assistance programs.**

As a former advocate with Students for Equity and Reform in Virginia (SERV), I served as our liaison for the Healthcare for All Virginians coalition. In this capacity, I worked with policy advocates, analysts, and legislators over the past several sessions on issues central to children's health in the Commonwealth — from expanding CHIP to include all children regardless of citizenship status to changing “trigger language” to protect Medicaid expansion. I also worked with other advocates and policymakers to support additional investments in Medicaid and CHIP to make up for losses in federal funding. Alongside my advocacy work in the General Assembly, I completed my Master's in Public Policy at the University of Virginia's Batten School, where I partnered with the Virginia Poverty Law Center to develop recommendations to bridge the SNAP enrollment gap between immigrant and non-immigrant households. My experience as both a student of public policy and an advocate in the General Assembly has provided me with a greater understanding of the interconnected challenges of hunger and poverty, including the fear and distrust that drives eligible families to disengage from public assistance programs like SNAP and CHIP.

- 2. What motivates you to participate in CHIPAC? What are your goals and priorities as a member of the Committee?**

Far too many children in Virginia do not have the resources they need to thrive — from food insecurity, which creates long-term health challenges for low-income families, to healthcare, where far too many children don't have access to much needed medical attention, I believe we all have a responsibility to do better by its children. I am specifically interested in additional investments in school based health centers which are uniquely situated to help address the

worsening mental health crisis amongst Virginia's youth. I am also interested in working with the Committee to take a more holistic approach to children's health. As someone who has spent the past several years working with food nutrition activists as a member of the Healthy Free School Meals for All coalition and as a member of the team at the Virginia Poverty Law Center, I believe my experience advocating for anti-hunger legislation further informs my appreciation for the necessity of preventative care. For young people struggling to fulfill daily nutritional goals, food is medicine. I hope to work with other members of the Committee to see how the Commonwealth can use CHIP and Medicaid to fund nutrition assistance. As Virginia's youth face rising rates of hunger and a worsening mental health crisis, FAMIS/CHIP provides the Commonwealth with the tools necessary to address both. I look forward to working with the Committee to ensure that schools across the Commonwealth are empowered to use FAMIS/CHIP to reimburse for school based health services in an effort to address continued funding challenges.



Children's Health Insurance Program
Advisory Committee of Virginia

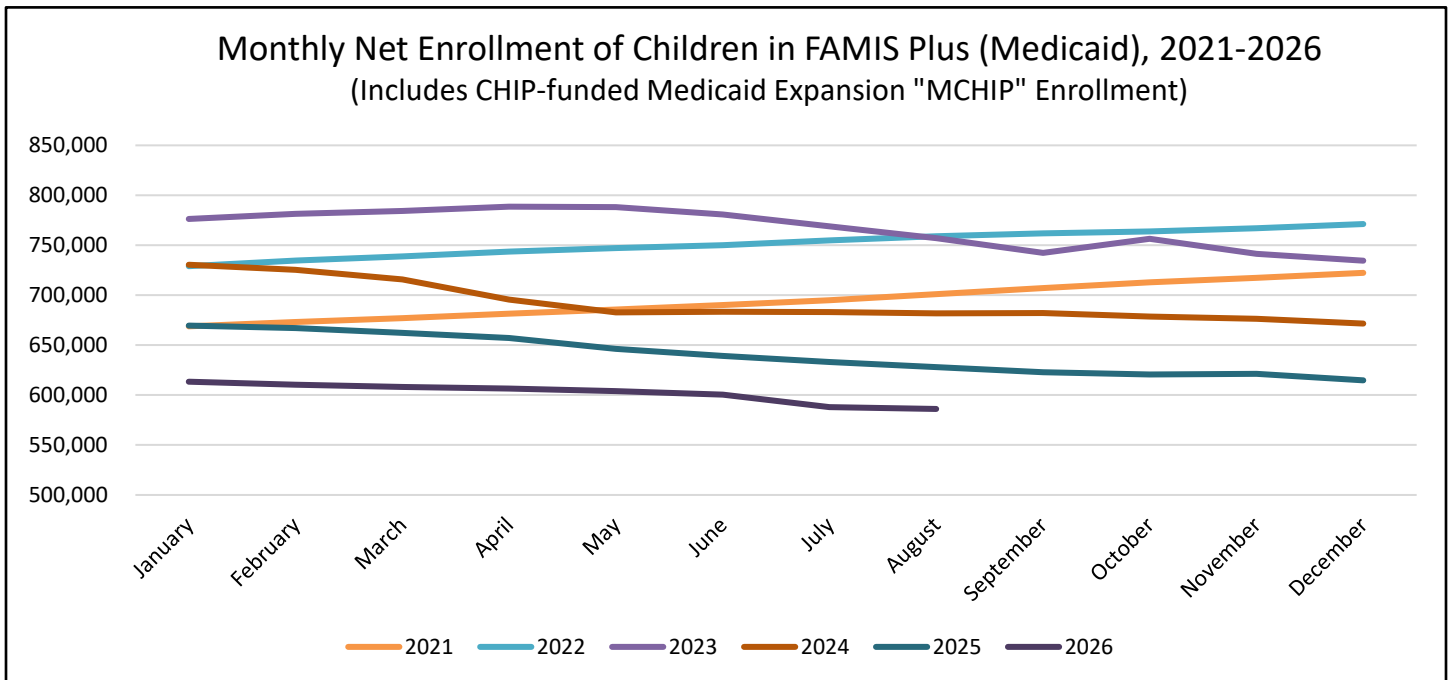
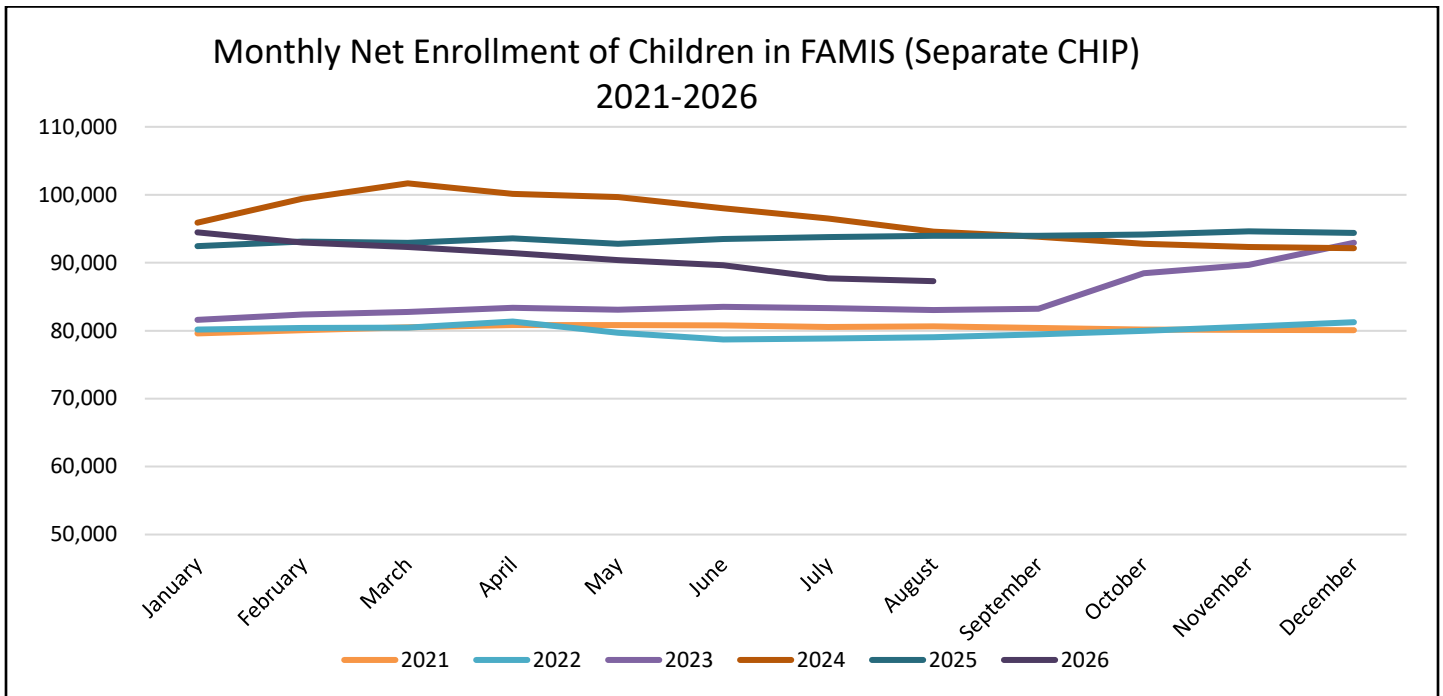
2027 Proposed Meeting Dates

September 10, 2026

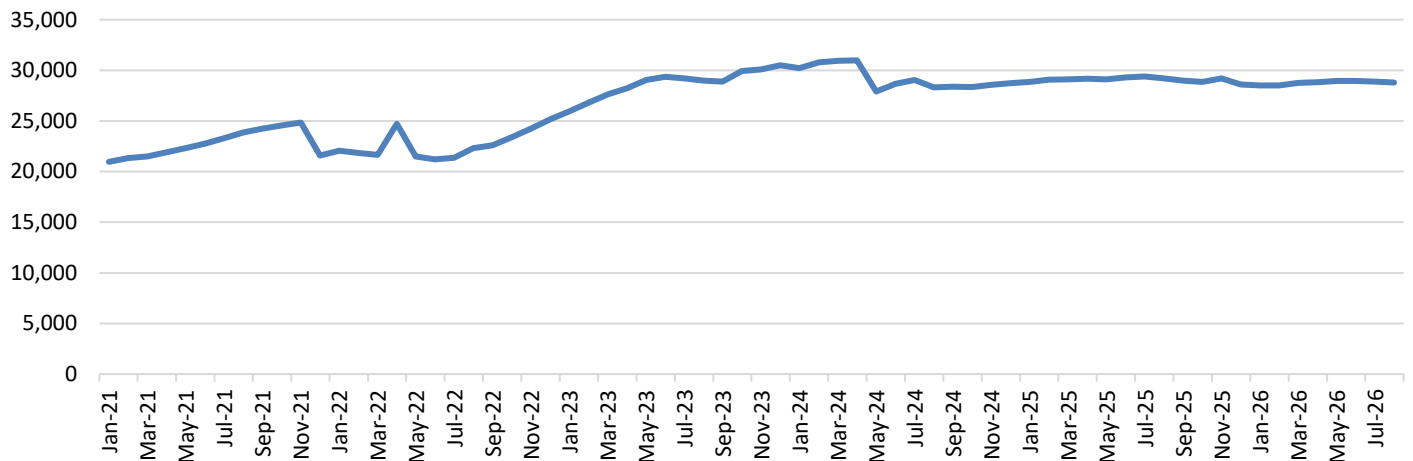
- **Thursday, March 4, 2027** (1:00–3:30 pm)
- **Thursday, June 3, 2027** (1:00–3:30 pm) *Virtual Meeting*
- **Thursday, September 9, 2027** (1:00–3:30 pm)
- **Thursday, December 9, 2027** (1:00–3:30 pm) *Virtual Meeting*

CHIPAC Quarterly Enrollment Dashboards

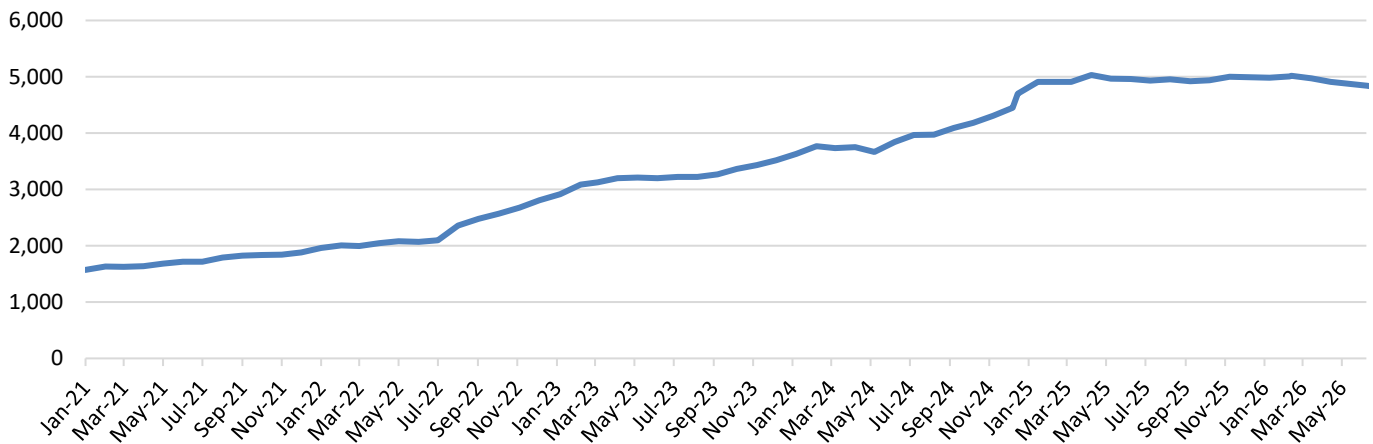
As of August 2026



Monthly Enrollment in Medicaid for Pregnant Women (MPW)
2021-2026



Monthly Enrollment in FAMIS MOMS
2021-2026



Monthly Enrollment in FAMIS Prenatal Coverage
July 2021 - Present

