Consortium Calls on Governor Murphy to Put Medicaid Expansion for Undocumented and Uninsured Kids in 2022 Budget

<u>Anti-Racism</u> - <u>Health Care</u> - <u>Mental Health</u> - <u>State Advocacy</u> - <u>Undocumented Immigrants</u>

Update: Due to pressure from New Jersey community members and organizations, Governor Murphy has designated \$20 million for Cover All Kids — an important first step towards establishing this program to cover 88,000 uninsured youth, and ultimately to move towards Healthcare for All. The ball is now in legislators' court. The Consortium urges them to swiftly pass both the Cover All Kids legislation and a budget that includes \$20 million to fund the program. Thanks to NJ Citizen Action and our coalition partners for your work to make Cover All Kids a reality!

On Thursday, February 18, 2021, the Consortium joined 30 New Jersey organizations asking Governor Murphy to forward Healthcare for All in his 2022 budget by including funding for undocumented and otherwise uninsured children youth to enroll in NJ's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The CHIP expansion plan — known as "Cover All Kids" — directly builds on years of efforts to increase healthcare access and equity for undocumented and uninsured kids in the state. According to the Center for State Health Policy, approximately 23%, or 18,400, uninsured children are ineligible for healthcare due purely to their immigration status. Inclusion of Cover All Kids in the Governor's budget is the first step towards including every young New Jerseyan in coverage — and ultimately towards making healthcare a human right in the state.