

Cook Children's Health Plan (CCHP) Fact Sheet

- In March 2024, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) announced major changes to the STAR and CHIP managed care programs beginning in September 2025. At that time, families currently enrolled in CCHP will be forced to choose a new plan from four national, for-profit health plans, three of which have no experience in our market: Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, Molina and UnitedHealthcare.
- Cook Children's immediately filed a protest. Then, on June 6, HHSC rejected the protest. We are appealing the decision and are determined to use every resource at our disposal to get this decision overturned.
- It was recently learned that the process was so flawed that Aetna was emailed in advance copies of the proposals from 17 other providers competing for the same contract. We believe we were likely one of those providers whose plan was shared with Aetna, giving them a massive advantage. This alone is enough to warrant a correction from the state.
- For more than 20 years, Cook Children's has administered STAR and CHIP managed care services with consistent high performance and satisfaction scores.
- Each year, Cook Children's uses this program to offer access to health care for more than 125,000 low-income families, pregnant women and children, many with medically-complex issues in Tarrant County and surrounding areas.
- This year, HHSC used a flawed scoring process during the STAR and CHIP procurement and declined to renew Cook Children's contract.
- That's why Cook Children's is filing suit to stop the state from taking away the option to select Cook Children's as the health plan our families have depended on for so long.
- In particular, Cook Children's has filed a Petition for Declaratory Judgment and Application for Injunctive Relief. This is the lawsuit to overturn the decision.
- In the meantime, Cook Children's has also filed an Application for Temporary Restraining Order and Temporary Injunction, requesting that HHSC refrain from moving forward with its flawed procurement results. Both actions were filed in Travis County.
- HHSC got it wrong. Cook Children's is determined to make it right.
- More information on this issue, including FAQs, news coverage, photos and videos can be located at SaveCookChildrensHealthPlan.org.