Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

When You Need Short-Term Support

Latrice D. - St. Louis, Missouri

That's Medicaid *shares stories of people covered by Medicaid at critical points in their lives, underscoring the importance of stable health insurance coverage in building a Culture of Health.*

A few months into **Latrice**'s pregnancy she found out her baby would be born with heart complications, and the family would need additional support—or go into extreme debt.

The news came in the first weeks of the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, further adding to the anxiety.

Latrice's job at an early learning center provides her with health insurance and her 4-year-old daughter receives coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), but a Medicaid plan would provide the backstop to ensure the baby would receive the needed care after birth and in the first year of life.

Newborn Makayla was delivered in the early summer of 2020 and was quickly whisked to a children's care unit, where a team of physicians preformed heart surgery.

When a hospital employee learned that Medicaid was providing coverage for the baby, Latrice was reassured that all the paperwork was in order and that her only responsibility was to get rest.

"That gave me a great relief knowing that she was covered and she was safe, and that wasn't another stressor on top of all these medical issues," Latrice says.

Makayla is home now and Medicaid will provide medication, nursing assistance, doctor visits, medical equipment, and nutrition information before she joins her sister on CHIP assistance after her first birthday.

"Medicaid has literally been a lifesaver for my daughter," Latrice says.