

2026 STAR Kids Primary Care Provider Incentive Program



Texas Children’s Health Plan has updated their 2026 STAR Kids Provider Incentive Program for Primary Care Providers (PCPs) in an effort to align with state priorities and quality measures. This year’s program places emphasis on incentivizing PCP groups for Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits, and Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis.

Provider and health plan partnerships will close care gaps, enrich care delivery, improve data capture, and engage membership. These efforts result in improved quality scores and healthier member outcomes. Please review this handout to learn about the incentive program, understand your eligibility for participation, and identify the potential incentive payment you could receive.

Payout schedule

Measures	Performance period	Payout date
Inovalon Tool Usage	Jan. 1, 2026–Mar. 1, 2026	July 2026
	Apr. 1, 2026–June 30, 2026	July 2026
	July 1, 2026–Sep. 30, 2026	Oct. 2026
	Oct. 1, 2026–Dec. 31, 2026	Jan. 2027
WCV Total (STAR Kids)	January 1, 2026–December 31, 2026	June 2027
CWP (STAR Kids)	July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026	June 2027

How the program works

To be eligible for the incentive payout, the PCP group is required to have a panel of a minimum of 25 STAR Kids members and meet the performance targets outlined below.

Beginning in Q1, providers have an opportunity to earn a \$250 quarterly incentive by accessing gaps in care reports via Inovalon tool.

How you qualify

Care must be captured administratively through claims or via electronic data feeds. Medical record submissions will not be accepted toward incentive payment calculations. Recommended code classifications include CPT and ICD-10.

Incentive payments are attributed to eligible group Tax ID Numbers (TINs) based on each member who receives the required service for measures if the group meets the panel requirements.

Each provider group must be actively contracted with Texas Children’s Health Plan’s STAR Kids line of business at the time of payment to be eligible for payout. Minimum panel requirement: 25 members as of October 2025.

2026 Program Structure

The program consists of the three HEDIS quality measures mentioned below and one administrative measure (Inovalon Tool access).

One annual payout will be issued for meeting the HEDIS quality measures included in the 2026 Program. Provider Groups will have the potential of earning an incentive payout for each measure. Payout will be based on the performance level and number of members from the Provider Group’s panel, subject to a cap.

Provider Groups are eligible for \$14 incentive per member for Level I performance and \$8 incentive per member for Level II performance.

For the administrative measure, effective Q1, Provider Groups may earn an additional \$250 payout each quarter by accessing gaps in care reports via Inovalon Tool.

The program measurement period is for dates of service between January 1, 2026–December 31, 2026, and is aligned with HEDIS technical specifications and timelines as reflected in the program payout schedule.

Performance Measures

Payout caps: Level I \$30,000, Level II \$15,000

Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits

(WCV Total): Assesses children 3–21 years of age who received one or more well-care visit with a primary care practitioner or an OB/GYN practitioner during the measurement year.

Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP):

Assesses the percentage of episodes for members 3 years of age and older with a diagnosis of pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus test for the episode.

Inovalon Tool Usage: Accessing gaps in care reports via Inovalon tool.

Star Kids Provider Incentive Program

Measure	Level I	Level II
WCV-Total	≥76	≥73- <76
CWP	≥90	≥85- <90
Inovalon Tool Usage	3X Quarterly	

Program changes and continuation

Texas Children’s Health Plan reserves the right to evaluate the program and modify the program in its sole discretion at any time. Texas Children’s Health Plan further reserves the right to terminate this program at any time.

Payment administration

- Payment will be made to the entity associated with the Tax ID number to which the STAR Kids provider group(s) are affiliated for claims payment.
- Each STAR Kids provider group must be actively contracted with Texas Children’s Health Plan STAR Kids line of business at the time of payment to be eligible for payout.
- Quarterly Performance Status reports will be distributed quarterly to reflect progress toward performance measures, and an annual Explanation of Payment (EOP) statement will be issued to summarize total incentive payments earned for the program year.
- Payments are consolidated for multiple groups and STAR Kids providers who practice within the same Tax ID number.
- Texas Children’s Health Plan will communicate the performance and payout results to the provider group. The individual STAR Kids provider scores will be listed on the EOP.
- Providers or groups subject to payment review or a corrective action plan by Texas Children’s Health Plan, under a payment hold or similar order from a regulating agency or not in good standing for participation in the federal or state healthcare programs at the time of payout will not be eligible for incentive payouts and will remain ineligible until any of the above-referenced matters is resolved and the provider or group resumes to be in good standing.

If you have any questions please contact the alternative payment model team via email at **AlternativePaymentModels@texaschildrens.org**.

Texas Children’s Health Plan’s Division of Continuing Medical Education provides continuing medical education activities designed to enhance physician competence, skills, medical knowledge and patient care. Texas Children’s Health Plan’s 2026 CME activities aim to address topics that align and support improved quality performance practices.

Please visit the web address for more information: www.texaschildrenshealthplan.org/cme



Did you know? Texas Children’s Health Plan members can receive a \$100 reward card for completing 6 well-child checkups by the age of 15 months and an additional \$50 reward card when completing 2 additional well-child checkups by the age of 30 months.

Please visit the [Healthy Rewards Program](#) website for more information.