As we look forward beyond the pandemic, the innovative strategies and lessons learned to support children with disabilities and their families can be organized into seven main themes:

1. **Lived Expertise**
   - Include those with lived expertise as leaders.
   - Respect and value the perspective of families with a limited capacity to participate.
   - Address the needs of people from multiple marginalized identities.

2. **Partnerships and Coalitions**
   - Support some existing partnerships and coalitions.
   - Form new coalitions between schools and public health systems.
   - Bring together stakeholders.

3. **Flexibility**
   - Expand telehealth access and reimbursement.
   - Exercise flexibility with administrative roadblocks (such as prior authorization requirements or state-to-state licensing rules).
   - Extend Medicaid waiver flexibilities.
   - Pay families for the care labor they provide.

4. **Technology**
   - Telehealth is valuable to children with disabilities and their families.
   - Disparities in access to technology present a challenge for future telehealth use and expansion.
   - Make broadband access a public good.
   - Continue and expand payments for telehealth.
   - Respect preferences about technology use.

5. **Children with Disabilities have Rights**
   - Ensure that they receive accommodations and services that they are entitled to.
   - Issues: Unfunded mandates, lack of clarity around children’s rights, and lack of adequate training.
   - While they are guaranteed a free appropriate public education, the pandemic disrupted many services and virtual school was not always appropriate.
   - Clarify Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) care coordination benefit.
   - Increase the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage.

6. **Coordination and Communication**
   - Need for improved coordination and communication with children with disabilities and their caregivers to better ensure that needs are met.
   - Have decision-makers and those directly impacted at the table.
   - Maternal and Child Health Bureau and Title V agencies could help facilitate communication, particularly during emergencies.

7. **Political and Social Determinants of Health**
   - Importance of food security, adequate housing, and economic stability to health outcomes.
   - Children are not able to access needed health care due to barriers, red tape, and perverse incentives.
   - Simplify access to programs and improve access to all families.

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