

BLUEPRINT

for KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN



2015 POLICY PRIORITIES

Safe & Healthy Families • A Fair Deal for Working Parents • A Fair Opportunity for Every Child



Protect children from child abuse: **Require training on the prevention and recognition of child abuse** for public school personnel and information for students and parents.



Protect Kentuckians, especially children, pregnant women, and women of childbearing age, from the dangers of secondhand smoke: **Enact a statewide, comprehensive smoke-free law** that prohibits smoking indoors in workplaces and public places.



Ensure the success of children placed with grandparents and other relatives: **Expand supports offered in the Kinship Care Program** and better connect caregivers to existing supports.



Improve quality, accessibility, and affordability of early childhood education and care: Encourage the use of community-based child care to **deliver quality preschool services** and establish a child care provider council.



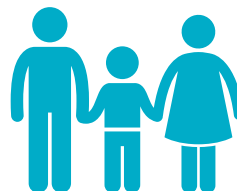
Protect youth from experiencing or witnessing violence: **Extend protective orders** to victims of dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.



Improve child health: **Strengthen kindergarten entry oral health screening requirements.**



Support youth who reach adulthood without a permanent family: Automatically **enroll youth aging out of foster care in Medicaid** until age 26.



Help families close the gap between what they earn and what they need to make ends meet: Ensure families can **apply for and access benefits online** through a streamlined process.

2015 POLICY PRIORITIES

CONTINUE SUPPORT OF STRONG POLICIES FOR KENTUCKY CHILDREN:

- Help low-income, working families have access to child care supports: Ensure the Child Care Assistance Program is accessible to families and expand the program in the future to cover more families.
- Ensure that Kentucky public school students are prepared for college and careers with the ability to compete nationally and internationally: Continue full implementation of the Common Core State Standards.



- Create better outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system and their families while protecting public safety: Ensure effective implementation of recent juvenile justice reforms.

EMERGING PRIORITIES

- Ensure working families can make ends meet and move towards economic security.
- Ensure that young people enrolled in state agency schools (A6 programs) receive a quality education by fundamentally reforming A6 programs with particular attention to accountability, governance and finances.
- Ensure children have access to behavioral health services, including substance abuse services, to support their successful participation in school and transition to adulthood.



- Address trauma experienced by children: Improve recognition of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in order to prevent these experiences and help children who have experienced them recover fully.
- Ensure Kentucky children have access to health coverage and that health care (physical, mental, vision and oral health care) is provided in an integrated way by monitoring the implementation of managed care.