2020 Policy and State Budget Priorities

- Enact a state refundable Earned Income Tax Credit to help families make ends meet
- Increase state funding for child care assistance to improve access to affordable, high quality care that allows parents to work, children to thrive, and local economies to grow
- Strengthen licensed child care program standards on healthy eating and drinking, active play, and screen time to support children’s healthy growth and development
- Prioritize investments in child health coverage, initiatives to close the remaining gap, and ensure children and families can continue to access the health care they need
- Protect kids’ health and development by enacting a tax on e-cigarettes, prohibiting tobacco sale to anyone under age 21, and strengthening state investment in tobacco use prevention and cessation programming
- Prioritize school-based services that promote student safety, health, and well-being by funding requirements of the School Safety and Resiliency Act, boosting investment in Family Resource and Youth Service Centers, and ensuring school districts have necessary resources to implement Free Care
- Eliminate the use of corporal punishment in schools to create safe and nurturing learning environments for students
- Ensure adults providing K-12 educational instruction in the home setting meet minimum educational and safety requirements, and that the child being enrolled in homeschool has not received a truancy summons

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Strengthen Kentucky’s efforts in child abuse and neglect prevention by investing in programs that keep kids safe and families together and making commonsense changes to state law that would protect kids and help kids who have experienced maltreatment heal.

Prioritize kinship and fictive kin care by investing in critical financial and respite care supports.

Minimize the impact of parental incarceration on children by limiting the use of money bail for people who commit lower level or non-violent offenses. Also, address the addiction crisis and its impact on families, the foster care system, and the criminal justice system by utilizing state funds to establish Family Recovery Court pilot projects in select Kentucky communities.

Expand court discretion by eliminating the mandatory transfer of youth age 14 and older to adult court for situations involving a firearm.

Establish a minimum age that a child can be charged with an offense and connect the child to family-focused services to prevent children from entering the maze of the juvenile justice system.

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