The Blueprint for Kentucky’s Children is a coalition of non-profit, public, and private organizations that stands on three pillars: thriving communities launch strong families, strong families launch successful kids, and successful kids launch a prosperous future for Kentucky.

As the commonwealth works to overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and address systemic racism, the Blueprint speaks with a common voice to create brighter futures for all Kentucky kids and their families.

These policy priorities can be implemented during the 2021 Kentucky General Assembly without being included in the state budget:

- Allow city and county governments the option to regulate the use, display, sale, and distribution of tobacco products – including e-cigarettes – to curb tobacco use among youth
- Offer state employees access to 12 weeks of paid family leave after the birth or adoption of a child
- Hold parents accountable in ways that minimize the impact of parental incarceration on children
- Establish a minimum age – at least 12 years old – that a child can be charged with an offense, and connect the child to community-based services instead of sending them through the juvenile justice system
- Allow juvenile court judges to use their discretion in the decision to transfer youth ages 14 and older to adult court for situations involving a firearm
- Amend local planning and zoning laws to allow regulated home-based family child care options to safely serve children in their neighborhoods
- Modify the mandated child abuse reporting law to disallow “chain of command” procedures within public and private agencies
- Remove the clergy-penitent privilege exemption in the child maltreatment reporting law
- Strengthen the current statute of limitations timeframes for physical and sexual abuse offenses to allow later abuse disclosure
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Kentucky kids and families need a strong state budget. Among the many budget priorities, the Blueprint for Kentucky’s Children hopes to see the following included:

- Sustain funding for the Medicaid and KCHIP programs, and invest in closing the remaining gap in child health coverage
- Invest in infrastructure to close the digital divide so that kids can access the educational resources and telehealth services they need
- Sustain funding for Family Resource and Youth Service Centers (FRYSCs), who work with families to remove barriers to student learning
- Ensure dedicated funding to implement the Expanded Care Services policy to support student health
- Prioritize kinship care by sustaining investment in critical services and financial supports
- Increase funding for family preservation and treatment programs that allow families to stay together safely while parents work to achieve sobriety and access mental health and parenting supports
- Expand investment in child abuse forensic services so all children who experience maltreatment can receive the best care
- Invest in the Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS) in-home visitation program to provide critical supports to new parents
- Protect current funding for safety net programs, including KTAP, CCAP, SNAP and WIC, and ensure they are not modified in ways that prevent children from receiving needed services