



BLUEPRINT *for*
KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN

2022 State Policy and Budget Priorities



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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.



THRIVING COMMUNITIES



STRONG FAMILIES



SUCCESSFUL KIDS



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

State Legislative Priority





Create a Paid Family Leave infrastructure so parents can access 12 weeks of paid leave after the birth or adoption of a child

State Legislative Priority





Utilize community-based sentencing alternatives that promote both rehabilitation and accountability while factoring in whether a person is a primary caregiver so parents can continue providing for their children

State Legislative Priority





Establish a minimum age – at least 12 years old – that a child can be charged with an offense and, instead of sending them through the juvenile justice system, connect the child and family to community-based services

State Legislative Priority





Strengthen efforts to support children who have experienced abuse and neglect

- Eliminate “chain of command” reporting procedures within public and private agencies to ensure any disclosures of abuse are reported accurately, in a timely manner, and directly to the proper authorities
- Close a gap in state law that allows agencies to report a suspected incidence of child abuse and neglect by an employee of that reporting agency internally rather than to an external agency
- Require coroners to notify within a 48-hour window and gather necessary information from law enforcement, the Department for Community Based Services, and the local health department upon the notification of the death of a child under the age of 18

State Legislative Priority





Ensure unemployment insurance is available to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking

State Legislative Priority





Ensure children and families continue to access the health care and services they need

- Ensure investments in Medicaid and KCHIP prioritize closing the remaining gap in health coverage for Latinx children
- Increase Medicaid funding to support health coverage for mothers up to 12 months postpartum
- Boost investments in tobacco use prevention and cessation programming to curb use among youth and pregnant women

State Budget Priorities





Invest in the education and wellbeing of every student

- Increase funding for Family Resource and Youth Service Centers (FRYSCs), who work with families to remove barriers to student learning
- Continue funding for full-day kindergarten as an investment in early education outcomes
- Increase per-pupil funding (SEEK) to ensure public schools can help all kids learn
- Increase funding for school-based health providers and access to school-based behavioral health services

State Budget Priorities





Boost investments in the programs that serve victims of child maltreatment

- Expand investment in child abuse forensic services – Pediatric Forensic Medicine at Kentucky’s medical schools and Children’s Advocacy Centers – so all children who experience maltreatment can receive the best care and their case can be investigated
- Increase the reimbursement rate for Pediatric Sexual Abuse Forensic Examinations (P-SAFE) to allow Children’s Advocacy Centers to adequately provide necessary services and care for pediatric sexual assault victims

State Budget Priorities



Protect funding for the HANDS in-home visiting program to ensure this critical service is available to and utilized by new parents across Kentucky



State Budget Priority





Bolster investments in the DCBS workforce to improve outcomes of the most vulnerable children and families

State Budget Priority





Build an infrastructure for child care that improves access to affordable, high-quality care to allow parents to work, children to thrive, and local economies to grow

State Budget Priority





Protect current funding for safety net programs, including KTAP, SNAP, and WIC, and ensure they are not modified in ways that prevent children from receiving needed services

State Budget Priority



Administrative Priorities



Prohibit mental health professionals from engaging in sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts with a minor by banning conversion therapy



Allow up to 15 minutes of school instruction time to be used for children to eat breakfast in the classroom

- Check out fact sheets at kyyouth.org/blueprintky
- RSVP for Children's Advocacy Week at the Capitol at kyyouth.org/childrens-advocacy-week
- Beginning in January, follow Blueprint for Kentucky's Children bills and other bills that are good for kids on our Bill Tracker

