



2024 Bloom Kentucky State Policy Priorities

Thriving communities launch strong families, strong families launch successful kids, and successful kids launch a prosperous future for Kentucky. The Bloom Kentucky initiative is focused on statewide policy changes and budget investments that aim to prevent and mitigate the multi-generational impacts of childhood adversity so that every child can grow up happy, healthy, and hopeful.

As part of the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children, Bloom Kentucky is advocating for the following state policy priorities to help prevent and mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):

- Allow student teachers to be compensated for their work in the classroom.
- Sustain funding for school-based mental health providers to improve access to services.
- Establish a process to automatically expunge an eviction from a family's record after they have been eviction-free for a reasonable amount of time, seal filings that do not result in an eviction, and prohibit minors from being named on eviction filings.
- Establish an interim joint task force on Kentucky's housing landscape to study the issue and create recommendations to address the housing crisis.
- Exempt freestanding birth centers from certificate-of-need requirements to expand access to safe, equitable prenatal and delivery care.

Learn more about ACEs in Kentucky and the Bloom Kentucky initiative at bloomkentucky.org.



2024 Bloom Kentucky State Budget Priorities

As part of the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children, Bloom Kentucky is advocating for the following state budget priorities to help prevent and mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):

- **Child Care**

- Maintain Child Care Assistance Program eligibility at 85% of State Median Income and the federally-recommended reimbursement rate.
- Base child care program reimbursement payments on enrollment rather than attendance, to align with new federal guidance.
- Implement a limited co-pay structure paired with maintaining a six-month transition period so that families can retain more income and still access benefits as they receive slight wage increases.
- Maintain scholarships, continue to cover costs of mandatory background checks, and persist with the implementation of the Family Child Care Home grant program to support early childhood educators.

- **Education**

- Allocate funding to support the student-teacher pipeline.
- Sustain funding for school-based mental health providers to improve access to services

- **Family Supports**

- Invest in the supply of available, affordable housing by infusing state dollars into the state Affordable and Rural Housing Trust Funds.

- **Health**

- Boost investments in mental health reimbursement rates and bring Behavioral Health Service Organizations (BHSOs) on par with Medicare reimbursements