



2025 Bloom Kentucky State Legislative 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.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic or stressful events that occur prior to the age of 18, such as:

- Experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect
- Witnessing violence in the home or community
- Having a family member attempt or die by suicide
- Substance use problems in the household
- Mental health problems in the household
- Instability due to parental separation or household members being in jail or prison

ACEs are common.

- 1 in 5 Kentucky children have already experienced at least two ACEs.
- ACEs have lifelong effects on health and overall success and well-being.
- ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance use problems in adulthood, and can also negatively impact education, job opportunities, and earning potential.

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

- Promote family housing stability facing by making common sense changes to the eviction process.
- Establish common sense standards around when families can be disconnected from utilities.
- Ensure that children with special needs have access to high quality child care.
- Reduce the impact of parental incarceration by enacting caregiver consideration at sentencing.

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



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

- **Promote Family Housing Stability**
 - **Aim:** Promote family housing stability by making common sense changes to the eviction process including sealing filings that do not result in an eviction and prohibiting minors from being named on eviction filings.
 - **Connection to ACEs:** Research indicates that experiencing frequent moves or unstable housing is considered a factor that can contribute to an increased ACE score and potentially have negative long-term health consequences. Housing instability is often seen as a form of childhood adversity itself.
- **Establish Utility Standards**
 - **Aim:** Establish common-sense standards to protect children and their families from utility disconnections during extreme heat or cold events and create avenues for families to get reconnected to electricity, water, and heating quicker.
 - **Connection to ACEs:** Frequently moving and potentially being subject to homelessness can be traumatic and exacerbate the effects of other ACEs.
- **Ensure Children with Special Needs have Access to Child Care**
 - **Aim:** Ensure the high quality care of young children with special needs by requiring training for child care providers on strategies to support children with disabilities and incentivize programs to serve children with disabilities through the Kentucky All STARS system.
 - **Connection to ACEs:** Child care plays a vital role in preventing child abuse by providing stressed families with the respite they need to support their parenting.
- **Enact Caregiver Consideration in Sentencing**
 - **Aim:** Reduce the impact of parental incarceration by enacting caregiver consideration legislation to expand the court's options for community-based alternative sentences to incarceration when the defendant is the primary caregiver to a dependent child.
 - **Connections to ACEs:** Parental incarceration is a known ACE that often leads to other adversities, such as household instability, exposure to substance use, and community violence.

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