



## Kentucky should...

assess the impacts on families and children when developing state policy and budgets

State policy and budget investments play a key role in shaping the systems and environments where kids grow, learn, and play.

**Child impact statements** are designed to be educational tools that strengthen decision making on policies by utilizing research and data and providing a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of proposed legislation.

---

***By requiring a data-driven assessment of how legislation affects various determinants of family well-being, Kentucky can consider how proposed legislation may increase risk for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and enhance access to positive childhood experiences (PCEs).***

---

This is especially critical in Kentucky, where between 2015 and 2020, 62% of adults reported experiencing at least one ACE, and 19% reported experiencing four or more ACEs during childhood.

These adverse experiences are strongly associated with long-term health, mental health, and social challenges, costing the state hundreds of millions annually.

### ***What types of legislative impact reports are currently used by the General Assembly?***

- Fiscal impact statements examine the potential impact on the state budget
- Correctional impact statements examine the potential impact on the state's correctional system
- Local mandate statements examine the potential impact on local governments

### **Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Policy Solution:**

Define child and family impact statements and create a process for analyzing proposed state legislation to determine potential impacts on kids and families.

### **To produce child impact statements, staff in government agencies can:**

- assess domains that impact children and families, including education, health, economic security, and community factors
- use a set of agreed-upon questions and criteria
- partner with nonprofits, philanthropic groups, universities, and other experts

**Kentucky can lead the country in creating greater accountability of policymaking decisions and its impact on child and family well-being.**