

BLUEPRINT FOR KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN

Legislators put forth a challenge to state child advocacy groups to develop a cohesive strategic agenda for child well-being. Kentucky Youth Advocates is coordinating a partnership with those groups to craft a six year Blueprint for Kentucky's Children. Below is the latest draft of the Blueprint. For more information visit www.kyyouth.org.

Safe & Healthy Families

Improve access to KCHIP (Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program)

- Implement 12-month continuous eligibility and presumptive eligibility for KCHIP families.
- Eliminate face-to-face interview requirement for enrollment and create an online application and renewal process.

Improve access to dental care services for children

- Implement a state funded loan forgiveness program for dental providers serving Kentucky's Medicaid and KCHIP population in underserved communities.
- Require public school students to receive a dental screening within 60 days of first-time enrollment.

Fair Opportunity for Every Child

Ensure an integrated, birth-to-five, early learning system

- Expand access to pre-kindergarten for children in families up to 200% of the federal poverty level. Institute a collaborative grant process that places pre-k programs in diverse community settings including child care and Head Start programs as well as schools.
- Increase funding for the STARS for Kids Now Quality Rating System and Scholarships for Early Care and Education Professionals.

Enhance resources for accessible child care services

- Raise the income eligibility level of the Child Care Assistance Program to 165% of the federal poverty level, and allow families to stay on the program until they reach 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Allow a combination of school and employment hours to reach the 20 hours/week work eligibility requirement for parents using the Child Care Assistance Program.

Fair Opportunity for Working Parents

Protect families from abusive lending practices

- Set a cap on the fees check-cashing establishments can charge to process checks in order to curb excessive costs incurred by Kentucky's low-income families.

Provide targeted tax relief

- Implement a state-level refundable EITC that offers the approximately 350,000 Kentucky working families a tax credit, allowing them to keep more of their earned money for daily needs and asset building.