

# BLUEPRINT FOR KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN

## 2022 State Policy Priorities

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.**

These policy priorities can be implemented during the 2022 Kentucky General Assembly:

- 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
- Create a Paid Family Leave infrastructure so parents can access 12 weeks of paid leave after the birth or adoption of a child
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Ensure unemployment insurance is available to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking
- 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



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## 2022 State Budget Checklist

As the Commonwealth works to overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and address systemic racism, the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children speaks with a common voice to create brighter futures for all Kentucky kids.

**Kentucky kids and families need a strong state budget. Among the many budget priorities, the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children hopes to see the following included:**

- ☐ 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
- ☐ 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
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Protect funding for the HANDS in-home visiting program to ensure this critical service is available to and utilized by new parents across Kentucky
- ☐ Bolster investments in the DCBS workforce to improve outcomes of the most vulnerable children and families
- ☐ 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
- ☐ 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

