



2016

Legislative Priorities

The Colorado Children's Campaign serves as the leading voice for kids at the state Capitol and in communities across the state. In our 30-year history we've worked with policymakers from every corner of the state and every political perspective to improve the well-being of Colorado kids. Children's issues aren't partisan, and we've learned that no matter the state's circumstances, we can develop innovative solutions to our children's issues when we work together.

As the 2016 session of the Colorado General Assembly begins, we've prepared the best available data and research on child well-being to help advocates advance—and protect—policies and investments we know will provide the greatest benefits to kids. Our focus this session includes:

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Promoting access to quality, affordable child care for teen parents, domestic violence survivors and children facing family hardships by removing barriers to the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) and supporting early childhood care providers.
- Expanding access to services that mitigate the “cliff effect” that families face in maintaining access to quality child care.
- Expanding access to mental and behavioral health services for young children and addressing expulsion and suspension of children in preschool and early elementary grades.

CHILD HEALTH

- Maintaining health insurance coverage options and ensuring kids and families have quality, affordable insurance that provides access to physical, behavioral, and oral health care services.
- Ensuring that all women have access to the most reliable and effective birth control methods so that they can finish their education and chart their own futures, giving their children the best possible chance for success.
- Advancing initiatives that ensure every child gets a healthy start in life, including affordable and accessible immunizations, ample amounts of nutritious foods, and access to healthy and safe places to live, learn and play.

K-12 EDUCATION

- Advocating for education financing that is equitable, sufficient and meets the needs of all students, especially children living in poverty, learning English or struggling to read.
- Protecting and advancing the implementation of:
 - The Colorado Academic Standards.
 - Meaningful assessments that provide a full picture of student growth and needs.
 - Evaluations that improve and empower teachers and school leaders.
 - School and district accountability systems that give parents and educators information they need to improve schools.
 - Policies that ensure every student in Colorado has access to a high-quality public school option.
- Balancing the need for reliable information on student performance with the need for appropriate privacy protections to ensure policymakers and parents can understand how our children and schools are doing.

BUDGET

- Protecting the health, education and safety services that benefit all Colorado children by developing innovative, bipartisan solutions to Colorado's current budget challenges.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Colorado Children's Campaign's Lunch and Learn Series

Join us for one or more of our annual explorations of the most pressing issues facing Colorado kids.

Kids 101 Breakfast

8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Jan. 20, 2016 in Room 0109 at the Capitol.

A Healthy Start:

**Children's Early Development, Health and Mental Health
Presented with the All Kids Covered Coalition**

Feb. 11, 2016

K-12 Education

March 2, 2016

KIDS COUNT in Colorado! preview`

March 15, 2016

All events in the Lunch and Learn series (except the Kids 101 breakfast) will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the Colorado Children's Campaign offices directly across Colfax Ave. from the Capitol at 1580 Lincoln St., Suite 420.

Complimentary lunch will be provided for all attendees, and can be purchased for \$5 in compliance with Amendment 41. RSVP to Angelique Smith at angelique@coloradokids.org, or 303-620-4533.

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Speak Up For Kids at the Capitol will be held March 16, 2015 in partnership with Children's Hospital Colorado and Clayton Early Learning. We'll provide training and coaching to help advocates speak up on issues they care about. For more information, contact Jacy Montoya Price at 303-620-4547 or jacy@coloradokids.org or visit coloradokids.org.

ABOUT US

The Colorado Children's Campaign is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization committed since 1985 to realizing every chance for every child in Colorado. We advocate for the development and implementation of data-driven public policies that improve child well-being in health, education and early childhood. We do this by providing Coloradans with trusted data and research on child well-being and organizing an extensive statewide network of dedicated child advocates.



It's About Kids

Bringing Colorado Communities Together

The **It's About Kids Network** is the Colorado Children's Campaign's statewide, grassroots advocacy network. It is comprised of more than 3,400 professionals, community and business leaders, policymakers, parents and other engaged citizens joined together by their concern for the well-being of Colorado's children.

The network is led by a dedicated group of 64 volunteer community leaders in 52 counties who provide guidance and direction to their communities and to the Children's Campaign in a variety of ways. To learn more about the It's About Kids Network, contact Katie Creedon at katie@coloradokids.org or 303-620-4532.

STAY INFORMED

Sign up at coloradokids.org for KidsFlash, our weekly e-newsletter, to stay up-to-date on the latest news on child well-being in Colorado. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn and Pinterest.



For more information on the Children's Campaign's work at the Colorado State Capitol, contact Jennifer Corrigan, Government Affairs Director, at jennifer@coloradokids.org or 720-243-9511.

COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN

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