

The Colorado Children's Campaign serves as the leading voice for kids at the state Capitol and in communities across the state. In our 35-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 proven that we can develop innovative solutions when we work together.

## OUR PRIORITY BILLS AND BUDGET REQUESTS

### ***Education: Fair Local Share for K-12***

Establishing a uniform mill levy for property owners would fix an unintended consequence of Colorado's inflexible tax system. It would ensure the quality of a child's education and the resources that schools can access don't depend on where a child lives. The majority of taxpayers will see little or no increase in property taxes. For more information, visit [FairShareforK12.co](http://FairShareforK12.co).

### ***Early Childhood: Workforce Education and Career Pathways***

Colorado's working parents can't get to work without early childhood educators. Improving career and education pathways for these high-demand jobs will catapult qualified, aspiring early childhood educators into classrooms by streamlining licensing, providing scholarships and grants, and establishing an apprentice program.

### ***Early Childhood: Mental Health Consultation***

The foundation of mental wellness is established in the early years of life. We can ensure that the many providers and caregivers that work with children have the support they need to foster healthy young minds and promote social and emotional well-being.

### ***Early Childhood: Educator Tax Credit Technical Fix***

A technical change to correct a drafting error will allow a bipartisan bill passed in 2019 to establish an early childhood educator tax credit to go into effect.

### ***Early Childhood: Expanding Access to Early Care and Education***

This year's budget must include increased investments in the Colorado Preschool Program and the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program to keep our state's economy thriving and to ensure young children have access to high quality early learning experiences.

### ***Economic Security: Helping Families Access Federal Income Support***

For families with incomes significantly below the poverty line, Basic Cash Assistance helps decrease the stress of making ends meet. Adjusting this program for inflation would support families and reduce extreme childhood poverty, which has a lifelong impact on child well-being.

### ***Health in the Budget: Perinatal Depression Support***

Mood and anxiety disorders are the most common complication of pregnancy and early motherhood—and can be caught with frequent check-ins with medical providers. Aligning the number of screenings allowed under a child's Medicaid benefit with national best practices would support families with low incomes in this critical time.

### ***Health in the Budget: Family Planning Investment***

Colorado's Family Planning Program is a long-standing, effective program that is poised to serve more women, especially in the rural areas of the state. Investing in this program supports the health and well-being of women and their children.



### **Speak Up For Kids at the Capitol**

Our annual advocacy day will be March 12, 2020 in partnership with Clayton Early Learning and Children's Hospital Colorado. We'll provide training and coaching to help advocates speak up about the issues they care about. For more information, contact Jacy Montoya Price at 303-620-4547 or [jacy@coloradokids.org](mailto:jacy@coloradokids.org)

### **Connect With Us**

The It's About Kids Network is the Colorado Children's Campaign's statewide advocacy network. More than 70 volunteer community leaders provide guidance and direction to thousands of child advocates by hosting presentations in their communities and activating Coloradans to speak up on behalf of kids. To learn more, contact Katie Creedon at 303-620-4532 or [katie@coloradokids.org](mailto:katie@coloradokids.org).



**It's About Kids**

*Bringing Colorado Communities Together*

# PRIORITY LEGISLATION WE SUPPORT

- Establish a statewide, publicly administered **paid family and medical leave** program to support child and maternal health, child development, involved parenting and family economic security.
- Protect and expand quality, affordable **health insurance coverage** options for kids and families.
- Protect the **Healthy Kids Colorado Survey**, and other ways we understand the health and well-being of Colorado's youth.
- **Increase vaccination rates** and keep our kids safe from vaccine-preventable diseases at school and child care.
- Expand access to **behavioral health services** and supports for infants, children and parents.
- **Reduce gun violence** hurting Colorado kids and families.
- Create a modernized, equitable **school finance formula** that targets investments to meet the needs of all students.
- Design **evaluations that improve improve teaching practice and empower teachers** and school leaders.
- **Promote family economic security** by expanding our state's Earned Income Tax Credit and investing in a state-level Child Tax Credit.
- Ensure all children and families have access to **safe, stable and affordable housing**.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Colorado Children's Campaign Lunch and Learn Series

Join our policy experts for timely and informative explorations of the most pressing issues facing Colorado kids.

#### Ten Trends in Child Well-Being: What every policymaker should know about Colorado's kids in 2020

Breakfast, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Jan. 16 in the West Foyer and Rotunda of the Colorado State Capitol

#### Nurturing Healthy Minds for Babies, Kids, Teens & Families in Colorado

Lunch starting at 11:45 a.m., Presentation from noon to 1:15 p.m., Jan. 30

At the Colorado Children's Campaign offices one block north of Colfax Ave. from the Capitol at 1580 Lincoln St., Suite 410

#### Fair Local Share: Creating an Equitable & Adequate Tax System to Support Public Education

Lunch starting at 11:45 a.m., Presentation from noon to 1:15 p.m., Feb. 6

At the Colorado Children's Campaign offices one block north of Colfax Ave. from the Capitol at 1580 Lincoln St., Suite 410

Complimentary meals will be provided for attendees, or can be purchased for \$5 in compliance with Amendment 41. Legislative staff members are welcome to join legislators, or come in their absence.

## STAY INFORMED

The West Steps is our weekly podcast digging into the policies affecting kids, with insights and analysis from our staff, partners and advocates in the field. Look for The West Steps on Apple podcasts or wherever you listen.



Sign up for KidsFlash, our weekly e-newsletter featuring the latest on child well-being in Colorado. During the legislative session, our staff analyze hundreds of bills affecting kids and families and provide free updates and analysis in our weekly Capitol Updates. Sign up at [coloradokids.org](http://coloradokids.org). You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn.

