



2026 Blueprint for Kentucky's Children State Policy & Budget Priorities

The Blueprint for Kentucky's Children stands on three pillars: thriving communities launch strong families, strong families launch successful kids, and successful kids launch a prosperous future for Kentucky.

Policy Changes

- Reduce the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation and increase the safety of students by ensuring appropriate disclosures, checks, and training are complete for potential public and private school employees.
- Support the development of young children with special needs by requiring training for child care providers on strategies to support children with disabilities.
- Uphold the basic legal rights of children by requiring minors to speak with a juvenile attorney before they waive their Miranda rights.
- Promote family housing stability by expunging filings that are dismissed and prohibiting minors from being named on eviction filings.
- Place common sense standards around utility disconnections during extreme weather events.
- Support youth mental health by creating mechanisms to direct social media settlement dollars to positive youth development programs.
- Define child and family impact statements and create a process for analyzing proposed legislation to determine impacts on kids and families.

Kentucky kids need a balanced state budget that sustains investments in vital programs that promote child and family well-being, such as nutrition programs, health care access, and child care support.

Budget Investments

- Ensure JUUL settlement dollars are used to address youth nicotine dependence, including cessation programming support and initiatives to reduce youth initiation.
- Support the basic needs of families by investing in addressing diaper need.
- Improve child safety and support independent living by automatically issuing state IDs at no cost for youth in foster care.
- Ensure state employees have access to paid family leave every three years in order to support healthy families and allow them to stay financially stable after the birth or adoption of a child.
- Strengthen family legal representation and improve outcomes by creating a statewide office for family representation.
- Expand investments in Parent Engagement Meetings (PEMs) to support families at risk of educational neglect by connecting them with services and preventing unnecessary referrals to DCBS or the courts.
- Ensure families have access to supervised parenting time services that maintain critical connections between children and their parents or siblings during child welfare involvement.
- Prioritize investments for children who have experienced abuse and neglect by dedicating funds to support kinship caregivers.