



2018 POLICY PRIORITIES

for the Arizona Governor, State Legislature
and State Agencies

January 2018

Children's Action Alliance invites you to join us as we stand up for policies and practices that create a brighter future for our children and a vibrant economy for Arizona.

Each year, the Governor and state legislature must enact a balanced budget that meets voter priorities for health, education, and security. State revenues are influenced by the national and state economies, tax collection and enforcement policies, and tax cuts and tax credits. Lawmakers should focus on policies that:



- Sustain investments in the safety net and health and education to prevent crisis and save on long-term costs and liabilities.
- Support a fair, sufficient and sustainable tax base that promotes educational success.

HEALTH



- Sustain KidsCare health coverage for 23,000+ children in working families for check-ups, prescriptions, behavioral health, and lifesaving treatments.
- Keep Medicaid as consistent, affordable coverage to support health, security, and employment for parents and families.
- Knock down bureaucratic barriers so that young adults who have lived in foster care can get the affordable health coverage they need through Medicaid.

EDUCATION

- Improve early learning and literacy by investing in child care and preschool with well qualified teachers who can give children the attention and environment they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.
- Increase investments in student success through better compensation and working conditions for highly qualified teachers, updated classroom textbooks and technology, and safe and functional school facilities.



- Add accountability for better educational outcomes by limiting the growth in private school tax credits and focusing scholarships on students in low income families.
- Expand college opportunities for young adults who have lived in foster care by making the pilot program for state university and community college tuition waivers permanent.

SECURITY

- Help foster youth transition to adulthood by allowing them normal childhood experiences in foster homes and group homes and giving them the chance to learn to drive and get their driver's permits, licenses and car insurance.
- Update policies, information, and benefits to better support abused and neglected children who move from foster care to permanent guardian families.



- Improve stability for children being raised by grandparents with stronger financial support.
- Reduce childhood trauma and nurture lifelong success by expanding in-home support services and proven strategies that prevent child abuse and neglect.

PLANNING FOR THE LONG TERM

Each year, Children's Action Alliance pursues a legislative agenda that advances our long term strategy for improving the lives of all Arizona children. We seek to:

1. Shape the public conversation to expect better state budgets and policies for kids
2. Nurture leaders and champions for children
3. Promote fiscal policies that facilitate children's health, education, and security
4. Improve children's access to health care
5. Prevent child abuse and neglect and improve strategies to protect children and strengthen families.
6. Improve community safety and youth development by increasing community treatment and decreasing youth incarceration
7. Promote early education policies and practices that improve reading success by third grade

Children's Action Alliance is an independent voice for Arizona children at the state capitol and in the community.

Since 1988, CAA has worked to improve children's health, education and security through information and action.

Visit us online at www.azchildren.org to learn more about current issues impacting Arizona's children and families, and to stay connected throughout the year.



**3030 North 3rd St, Suite 650
Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 266-0707**

**33 South Fifth Ave
Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 329-4930**