

Message from Executive Director:

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2025 was a year of great challenge but, through it all, what inspired me most is witnessing the unwavering commitment of our community to work together for Arizona's children.

In 2025, policymakers achieved significant victories at the state level. Arizona made its largest state investment in child care in over fifteen years – nearly \$50 million to make child care more accessible and affordable. K-12 education also received critical funding, including ensuring that eligible children have access to free school meals.

Yet the consequences of federal legislation is real. In July, through H.R. 1, Congress passed the largest cuts to health care and food assistance in our nation's history. These cuts to Medicaid and SNAP will make many eligible children and families lose their health care and food assistance, and cause economic harm in our state. Now it's up to us to work together to mitigate and document how these unprecedented cuts impact children, families, and communities in Arizona.

As we traveled the state, hosting the State of Kids Roadshow and convening town halls and community conversations in a total of nine counties, we kept these children and families present in our hearts and in every room we entered to build advocacy that matters.

The committed Children's Action Alliance team will never stop fighting for children and families. Thank you for your belief that every child in Arizona matters, and for the donations, partnership, and advocacy you contribute to stand with us.

With hope, determination, and deep gratitude,



January Contreras
Executive Director, Children's Action Alliance



Vision

An Arizona where
all children and
families thrive



Our Values



Equity

We strive toward equity for all in how we advocate and operate.



Justice

We believe justice should be an outcome of equity, fueled by empowered communities making their own decisions.



Community

We understand we are part of a greater whole, so we invest time in building relationships that are rooted in mutual respect.



Integrity

We earn community trust through accuracy, transparency, dependability, and authentic engagement.



Optimism

We make a difference because we choose to approach challenges from a place of possibility.

Wins for Children and Families in 2025



Health

- Critical services for eligible children and families, including AHCCCS and SNAP, were defended from harmful state legislative attacks that would have prematurely instituted obstacles associated with federal cuts.



Early Childhood Education

- \$44.9 million was invested in affordable child care – the largest appropriation to help families afford child care since 2009. Affordable, reliable child care is foundational to the well-being of Arizona children and families, and our economy.



K-12 Education

- \$37 million was allocated for the opportunity weight for K-12 students, accompanied by an additional \$29 million in targeted assistance for student education enrichment. This support helps level the playing field for students most likely to face systemic barriers.
- \$300 million was allocated in general fund dollars as backfill pay from the state land trust – a vital infusion of resources aimed at strengthening the foundation of public education and ensuring schools have funding to serve students effectively.
- \$3.8 million was secured to ensure that school meal copays will not stand between eligible children and access to nutritious meals. This supports student health, well-being, and readiness to learn.



Child Welfare

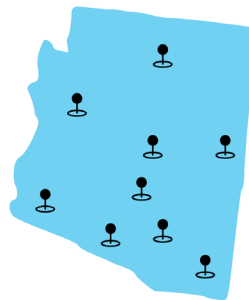
- As a proponent for reducing placement of children in group homes, We applaud that, beginning December 1, 2025, the Arizona Department of Child Safety increased the daily reimbursement rate by 50% for caregivers of children aged 6–18. This increase will support children in family-based care, which provides the strongest outcomes for children.
- Legislation was passed to strengthen oversight of placements of children in the foster care system, including congregate care placements. The legislation reinforced the state's commitment to family-like settings for children and to building accountability and transparency so that children with behavioral health needs are not turned away from appropriate care.



CAA Leading, Listening and Engaging



Convened with community and policymakers November 3, 2025



CAA held town halls, the State of Kid Roadshow, and community conversations in 9 counties



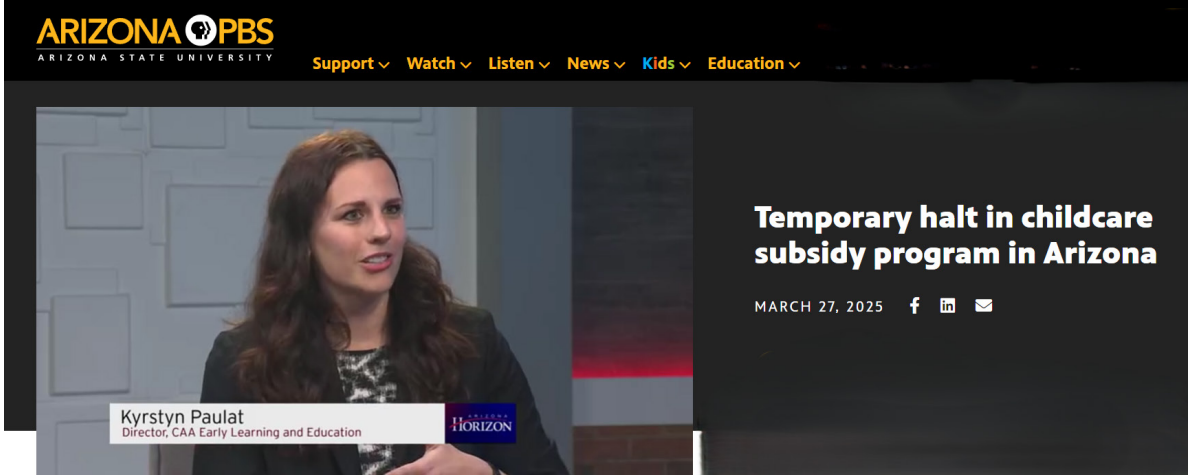
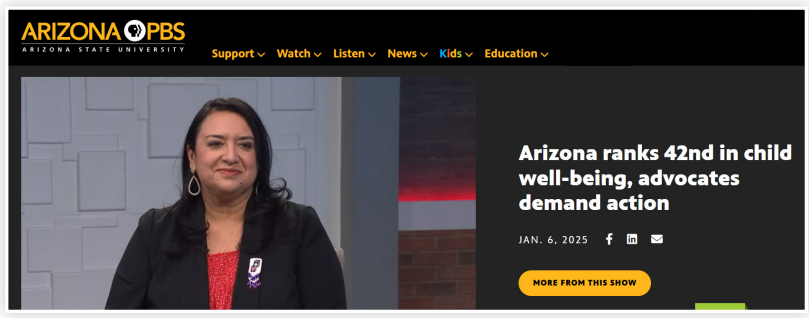
Recruited inaugural Changersmakers parent leaders cohort



Launched a cohort of 20 young adults with lived experience in foster care

Year in Review
2025

Executive Director January Contreras appeared on "Arizona Horizon" in January 2025 to discuss legislative priorities.



Abogan por servicios de preescolar y guarderías en el área de Yuma

"Michele Crow, directora de Children's Action Alliance, dijo que, a nivel estatal, el Departamento de Seguridad Económica pidió la aprobación de \$120 millones de dólares para asistencia en cuidado infantil, pero la legislatura solo apropió \$44.9 millones. Dichos servicios de DES tienen una lista de espera de 4,032 familias.

Crow invitó a los presentes a contactar a sus representantes legislativos para pedirles se aprueben más recursos para esos servicios el año próximo."

PART OF STATES NEWSROOM



January Contreras, executive director for Children's Action Alliance, told the crowd times are tough already with the high cost of groceries and housing, and that the bill will make things even more difficult for families: "We will see hunger become a reality for more kids and families, and we will see more families not be able to go to a doctor," she said.

Arizona Department of Child Safety under pressure to reduce use of group homes

Advocates point to recent tragedies involving kids in congregate care



Tucson Spotlight

By Angelina Maynes on May 19, 2025

Tucson advocates push to protect Medicaid, SNAP

At a post-Mother's Day event in Tucson, advocates, community leaders, and mothers gathered to defend Medicaid and SNAP, emphasizing their vital role in helping Arizona families survive and thrive.

Mothers, advocates and community leaders gathered May 12 to defend Medicaid and SNAP, lifelines that have helped thousands of Arizona families survive hardship. Angelina Maynes / Tucson Spotlight.

TheCopperCourier

"This bill 'saves money' by adding red tape that forces people off health care and SNAP," said Burns. "But the health care and food needs of Arizonans won't go away. Instead, all Arizonans will suffer."

- Jennifer Burns

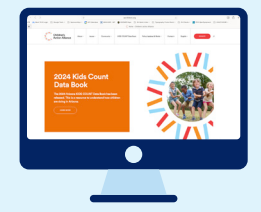
f 1.7M+
Facebook views

1,500+



LinkedIn followers (new!)

95,566
Webpage views



Up 190%

4,300+
INTERACTIONS



192
Published articles, news & blogs



1,700+
File downloads



ARIZONA LOCAL EL TIEMPO RESPONDE VIDEOS ENTRETENIMIENTO NEWSLETTERS

DEPORTES Puro Béisbol Copa Mundial de la FIFA ¡Qué tal Arizona! La Casa de los Famosos Conéctate

LOCAL

¿AUMENTA EL COSTO DE VIVIENDAS DEBIDO A INMIGRACIÓN?

TelemundoAZ 10:11 57'

PROPUBLICA

Investigative Journalism in the Public Interest

Wave of Tax Cuts Has Left Many States Vulnerable to Trump SNAP and Medicaid Crisis

Instead, to help pay for their tax cuts, many states have already raided their various cash funds. “We’ve sort of maxed out on gimmicks,” said Geraldine Miranda, assistant director of fiscal policy at the Arizona Center for Economic Progress. “There’s nothing left in the couch cushions.”

DECEMBER 11, 2025

KARMA’S A BUDGET: ARIZONA’S PAST DECISIONS ARE CATCHING UP FAST

3 Hidden Costs Lawmakers Can’t Avoid This Session

By **ARIZONA CENTER FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS**

Jump to Full Analysis Arizona ended last fiscal year with what looked like good news — a \$519 million cash balance. But once you subtract delayed bills from last year and factor in required spending increases already set...

STATE BUDGET & TAXES

TheCopperCourier

‘Hands Off Our Budget:’ Progressive groups demand lawmakers prioritize working families over billionaires

Advocates say Arizona’s flat tax is one of the culprits of gutted public services, calling on lawmakers to invest more in housing, education, and healthcare in the state budget.

Alyssa Bickle April 23, 2025

Arizona State Capitol complex in Phoenix. (Douglas Sacha/Getty)

The main harm is a loss of revenue resulting from Arizona’s move from a progressive tax system to a flat tax, Joseph Palomino, director of the Arizona Center for Economic Progress, told The Copper Courier. “That revenue could have been used to invest in our roads or schools or child care and our water,” Palomino said.

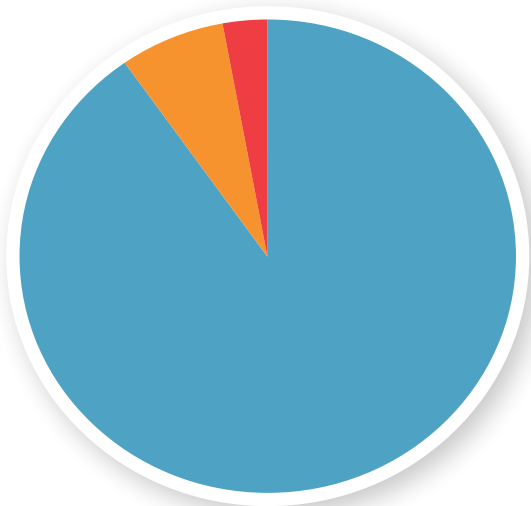


Financials:

Income 2025

\$2,231,792

- Grants 89%
- Contributions 7%
- Events 3%



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- Ashley M. Anderson, Vice Chair, Associate Director, Arizona State University
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Staff

- Guari Agarwal
- Jennifer Burns
- January Contreras
- Michelle Crow
- Lori Goodspeed
- Geraldine Miranda
- Joseph Palomino
- Kyrstyn Paulat
- Luisa Santos Martinez
- Aida Valenzuela

Thank you for your support!

Take action today. Partner with Children's Action Alliance to improve the well-being of Arizona children and families.

- Stay informed by signing up for CAA email updates at azchildren.org
- Learn about budget and tax policy by signing up for email updates at azeconcenter.org
- Register to vote and vote for change that supports children:
www.azcleaselections.gov/register-now
- Donate at azchildren.org/donate

Scan
to Donate

