

HEALTH



Expand income eligibility for KidsCare, Arizona's Children's Health Insurance Program, to at least the national median of 255 percent of the federal poverty level. Arizona currently has one of the lowest income thresholds in the nation at 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Adopt the Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA) for Medicaid and CHIP. This would allow some immigrant children (green card holders, asylees, special immigrant juveniles, and children with certain temporary status types) to access health care immediately, rather than after five years of U.S. residency.

Extend a comprehensive, uncapped oral health benefit to pregnant participants in AHCCCS, Arizona's Medicaid program.

Establish a sixth Area Health Education Center (AHEC) tasked with building and sustaining a culturally-responsive and representative health workforce at Indian Health Service, Tribal 638, and Urban Indian health facilities.

CHILD WELFARE



Restore supports to children whose grandparents and other kinship caregivers are caring for them when their parents cannot because of challenges such as mental health and homelessness. CAA will advocate to restore the "child only" Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefit to kinship caregivers that were cut during the Great Recession.

Increase the Kinship Stipend for children in foster care who are placed with kin. Unlicensed kinship foster families do not receive the same financial support from DCS as licensed foster parents. The \$75 a month Kinship Caregiver Stipend is an important resource for these children, but it falls far short of the \$641 per month that children placed with licensed foster parents receive. CAA will advocate to increase the Kinship Caregiver Stipend to \$250 month.

Establish a moratorium on "aging out" of foster care to ensure no young person is cut off from critical housing and support services during the public health emergency. Even prior to the pandemic young people were struggling to make the transition from foster care to independence with far too many experiencing food insecurity, homelessness, unemployment, and involvement in the criminal justice system.

K-12 EDUCATION



Provide Arizona's public schools with the same amount of funding for conducting virtual schools during the pandemic as they receive for in-person instruction.



EARLY CHILDHOOD

Appropriate at least \$20 million for high quality preschool for low-income families.

Arizona has previously had several streams of funding for preschool but over time they have disappeared. Most recently, the federal Preschool Development Grant, which ended in 2019. Children who attend high quality preschool programs are more prepared to enter kindergarten, are less likely to need special education services and are more likely to graduate from high school.

Appropriate \$10 million for child care assistance to raise provider reimbursement rates. Arizona's child care assistance program continues to reimburse providers for care at rates that are far below what it costs to actually provide that care. Parents often have to pay the difference between the reimbursement rate and the cost, making accessing child care too expensive even for many low-income families who are eligible for the program.

Provide legislative approval of the use of \$88 million in federal CARES Act funding for child care/CCDBG to be used on the Governor's Enrichment Centers to provide childcare for essential workers during the pandemic and the child care grant program.

azchildren.org | caa@azchildren.org

3030 North Third Street,
Suite 650
Phoenix, AZ
85012
602.266.07070

5049 East Broadway Boulevard,
Suite 158
Tucson, AZ
85711
520.329.4930