

Legislation and Advocacy From the States

Arizona

HB 2513, SB 1134, Prevent an Automatic Freeze on KidsCare

Sponsors: Representative Cobb and Senator Carter

KidsCare now provides affordable health care coverage to nearly 35,000 children in working families, connecting them with the check-ups, immunizations, treatment and prescriptions they need to grow up healthy.

Current state law has a trigger that immediately freezes enrollment in KidsCare when federal funding dips to a 91% match in October.

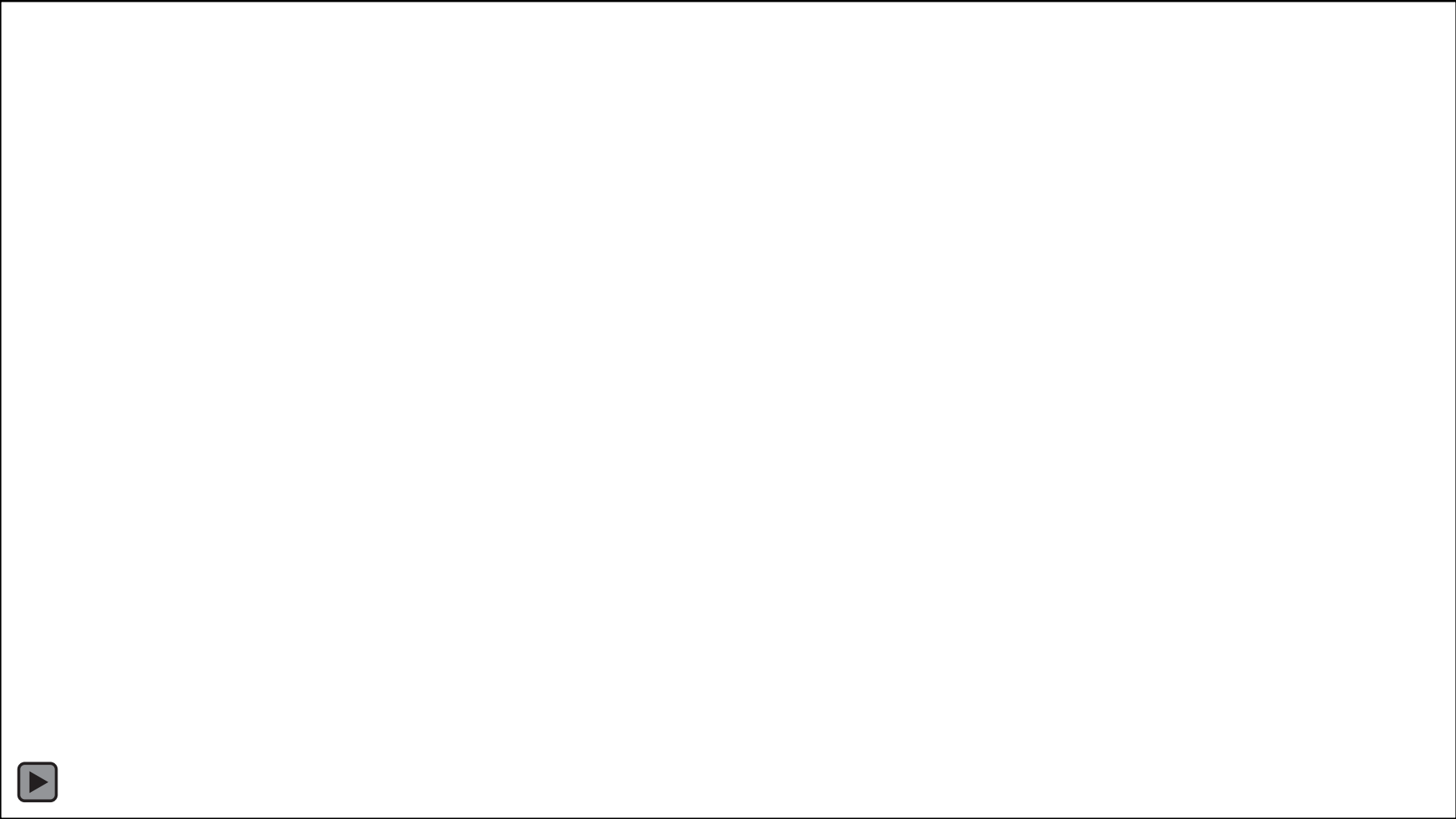
These identical bills remove the automatic freeze and match Governor Ducey's budget with a \$1.6 million appropriation of state funds to keep KidsCare open during the whole fiscal year.



Major Juvenile Justice Reformed Signed into Law



- March 8th was the bill signing ceremony for SB152 (now Act 189), landmark legislation that will begin the process of reforming the Arkansas juvenile justice system
- The new legislation, which will take effect on July 1, 2020



Major goals of the reform legislation, which was years in the making, included:



Reducing the number of youth and length of stay in juvenile lockups



Redirecting funding from secure confinement to more effective (and cheaper), evidence-based community services



Improving equity in the allocation of services in and across judicial districts; and enhancing the treatment of youth committed to the Division of Youth Services (DYS).

Keep up with what's happening weekly



- There's A LOT to keep up with at the Arkansas Capitol, this deep into the session. Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families provides easy-to-follow updates to see what's going on with legislation affecting education, juvenile justice, highways & more
- <http://www.aradvocates.org/arkansas-advocates-2019-legislative-session-recap-vol-8/>

Colorado

Capital Updates

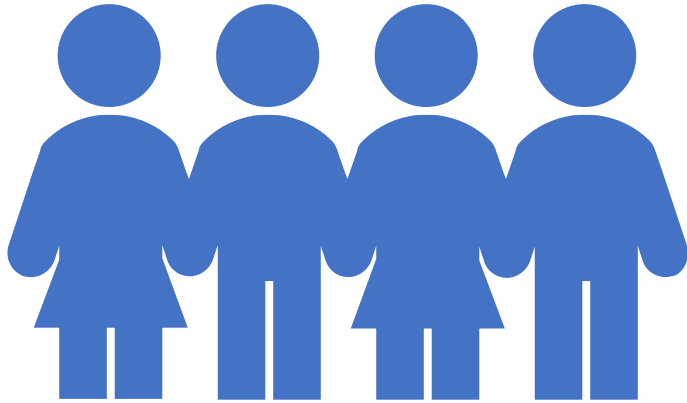
Each week during sessions of the Colorado General Assembly, they track a number of important bills related to the well-being of Colorado's children.

- <https://www.coloradokids.org/advocacy/at-the-capitol/capitol-updates/>



The Children's Campaign - Florida

- The Children's Campaign is actively following over 110 substantive and appropriations bills in the areas of child welfare, justice for girls, juvenile justice reform, child care and early education, children's rights and special needs, mental health and substance abuse and health that have the potential to impact children and families in **Florida**.
- <http://iamforkids.org/100-new-bills-affecting-florida-children-and-counting/>





Legislative Conference Call Series is every Friday at 4:00 PM ET during Florida's 60-day legislative session, to keep you up to speed on everything happening in Tallahassee.

- **Dial-in Number: 1-888-585-9008**
- **Conference Room Number: 521-148-484**

Let's Talk

Florida



Voices for Georgia's Children

- Provides Polly's 2 minute Take weekly during the legislative session
- <http://georgiavoices.org/pollys-two-minute-take/>
- As well as weekly Legislative Updates
- <http://georgiavoices.org/legislative-updates/>



IOWA

A Deeper Dive Podcast

- From the Child and Family Policy Center comes A Deeper Dive, a podcast about all-things child policy in Iowa. Every week they break down the policies and current events shaping the future for Iowa kids. Tune in every Friday for a new episode.
- https://www.cfpciowa.org/en/advocacy/a_deeper_dive_podcast/



- The **Kentucky** Department for Community Based Services has made it clear that the commonwealth will be among the first to implement the federal **Family First Prevention Services Act**. And with passage of **House Bill 158**, sponsored by Representative David Meade, by the Kentucky legislature, the commonwealth is taking its first steps in aligning state law with the federal legislation.

Kentucky **youth** Advocates

Compiled a list of key components of Family First Act and how they anticipate it will impact Kentucky's children and youth

for more
<https://kyyouth.org/the-family-first-prevention-services-act-kentucky-kids/>

- **Provide funding for prevention activities.**
- **Implement plans to prevent child abuse and neglect fatalities.**
- **Better access to family reunification services with federal reimbursement.**
- **Increase efficiency and timeliness to stable placements across state lines.**
- **Provide supports for Kinship Navigator Programs.**
- **Improve licensing standards for foster care placements.**
- **Take steps to ensure that placements outside of foster family homes are a necessity.**
- **Ensure placements in residential programs are necessary.**
- **Provide continuous support for recruiting and retaining foster families, extending child and family services programs, and improving independent living programs.**

2019 Children's Legislative Briefing Book



collaborative effort between:



Children's
Advocacy
ALLIANCE

Research Institute for Children, Youth & Families
NICRP

Nevada

- The Children's Legislative Briefing Book provides an in-depth overview and information related to topics related to children's safety, children's health, education, and economic well-being. The briefing book also contains policy briefs related to pending legislation.
- <https://www.caanv.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2019-Legislative-Briefing-Book.pdf>

New Hampshire



- The passage of [SB 14](#) is a high priority to support kids with behavioral health needs. An integrated and comprehensive system of care and statewide access to mobile crisis services are laid out in the bill.
- Overall Budget Ask: Fund an integrated and comprehensive system of care for children which includes statewide access to **mobile crisis services**
- <http://nh4youth.org/news/blog/nh-kids-need-mobile-crisis-services>



New Jersey FY2020 Budget Highlights that Impact Children and Families

Highlights of some of the proposed investments outlined in the Governor's speech:

- **A \$68 million increase to maintain and expand access to preschool.** These additional dollars will allow more 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income families to benefit from our state's nationally recognized model of high quality preschool.
- **A \$206 million increase in K-12 school funding** to put New Jersey on a path to full school funding;
- **A \$15 million increase in child care funding** that will improve the child care subsidy system program payment rates, create new incentives to expand infant care and prioritize quality care and services;
- **\$2 million toward the State's outreach strategy for the 2020 Census;**
- **\$30 million to increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** as well as the continuation of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to help low-income working families.

The budget process is just beginning and details regarding the proposed budget increases are still unknown. ACNJ will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available. These proposals represent a big step forward for New Jersey's children and families.

Keep up with the latest on the National Federation of Families Legislative and Advocacy Facebook Page



**Welcome to the National Federation's Facebook Group
for Legislation, Policy, Advocacy and Funding**



Have
Legislative
News from
Your State?

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Send your Legislative and Advocacy
Updates to

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