

2015 CHILDREN'S AGENDA

A legislative policy agenda for Oregon's kids





What will it take to make Oregon the best place to be a kid?

Five and a half years after the end of the Great Recession, more than 20% of Oregon's children continue to live in poverty. Our high school completion rate is one of the lowest in the nation and our foster care rates are among the highest. Children of color, the fastest growing demographic in our state, continue to face significant barriers to opportunity.

Across Oregon there is a widespread commitment to improve our future by focusing on our children. The Children's Agenda compiles the best thinking of over 60 pro-child advocacy organizations and coalitions on the children's issues being addressed in the 2015 legislative session. The Agenda items promote public policy changes and shared investments that benefit the health, education and economic security of our children, making it clear to our elected leaders what Oregon's children need.

Participants in the Children's Agenda support one or more of its priorities. While no single group supports all of the priorities, we all share the goal of improving the well-being of Oregon's children and families. Children First for Oregon respects the diversity of expertise, perspectives, and priorities within this community of advocates and is honored to serve them as the convener and coordinator of the Children's Agenda and as the home of United for Kids, Oregon's pro-child movement.

The breadth of the issues included in the Children's Agenda reflects the multitude of issues facing kids in Oregon. In order to solve these challenges, we propose many solutions. It is time to close the gap between public concern for kids and meaningful support of pro-child policies and investments in our state.

Together, we can - and we will - make Oregon the best place to be a kid.

Oregon has one of the lowest high school graduation rates in the nation.

Over 21% of Oregon children are in poverty.

More than 12,500 children are in foster care.

More than 50% of children have a cavity before entering Kindergarten.



United for Kids has one simple goal: to make Oregon the best place to be a kid. To do that, Oregon's children need a strong and unified voice advocating for them. United for Kids connects and amplifies the collective voice of pro-child Oregonians and organizations to promote public policy change and shared investments that benefit children's health, safety, education and economic security. United for Kids closes the gap between the public concern for kids and meaningful support of pro-child policies.

Hosted by Children First for Oregon, United for Kids includes advocates, businesses, service providers, labor groups, funders, faith communities, and elected leaders across Oregon. Find out more about how to get involved and a list of supporters at www.ORUnitedforKids.org.



At Children First for Oregon, our mission is to make long-term, systemic change by advocating for policies and programs that strengthen families and support children's health, safety and education.

Children First for Oregon is pleased to convene and coordinate the 2015 Children's Agenda as part of our United for Kids pro-child movement. The Children First Board and staff support and appreciate the work of our advocacy colleagues who work in policy arenas impacting Oregon's children and families. As an organization, Children First endorses the policy proposals incorporated in the 2015 Children's Agenda.

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All Children Reach Their Academic Potential

Give every student an equal chance to succeed

- **Invest in expanded learning opportunities after school and during the summer to support health and academic achievement and prevent learning loss**

SUPPORTED BY: Oregon ASK; Children's Opportunity Fund Initiative of Washington County; Healthy Kids Learn Better; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; ImpactNW; Latino Network; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon Public Health Association; YWCA of Greater Portland

- **Restrict suspensions for PreK-5th grade students and allocate funds to support positive discipline practices and reduce disparities**

SUPPORTED BY: Youth Rights & Justice; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; Latino Network; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children; Oregon Head Start Association; Stand for Children; YWCA of Greater Portland

- **Improve English Language Learners funding formula**

SUPPORTED BY: Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; Latino Network; NAYA Family Center; Stand for Children

- **Expand postsecondary educational options for individuals with intellectual disabilities**

SUPPORTED BY: All Born (In); Northwest Down Syndrome Association

- **Extend eligibility for Oregon Opportunity Grants to students who qualify for nonresident tuition exemption**

SUPPORTED BY: Causa; Latino Network; YWCA of Greater Portland

- **Create tax-free savings accounts for individuals with intellectual disabilities to cover qualified expenses such as education, housing and transportation**

SUPPORTED BY: All Born (In); Northwest Down Syndrome Association

Support education professionals

- **Increase funding for the Network for Quality Teaching & Learning**

SUPPORTED BY: Chalkboard Project; Stand for Children

- **Strengthen the accreditation/review process for teacher preparation programs**

SUPPORTED BY: Chalkboard Project; Stand for Children

- **Improve student teaching experiences for teacher preparation candidates**

SUPPORTED BY: Chalkboard Project

- **Renew the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit**

SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children

Use classroom time efficiently

- **Mandate fewer standardized tests**

SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Education Association; Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children

- **Tell students how testing will be used**

SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Education Association; Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children

Increase access to high quality early learning

- **Ensure all children up to 200% of the federal poverty level have access to high-quality preschool**

SUPPORTED BY: Children's Institute; Children's Opportunity Fund Initiative of Washington County; Fight Crime: Invest in Kids; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; ImpactNW; Latino Network; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association; ReadyNation; YWCA of Greater Portland

Level the playing field for children

- **Reduce chronic absenteeism**

SUPPORTED BY: Children's Institute; Children's Opportunity Fund Initiative of Washington County; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; ImpactNW; Latino Network; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association; Stand for Children

- **Reform Gain Share and Strategic Investment Program to increase funding for educational opportunities and other critical programs for children**

SUPPORTED BY: Tax Fairness Oregon; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Center for Public Policy

- **Ensure sexuality classes are evidence-based**

SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Public Health Association; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association; Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon

- **Expand access to Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities with increased funding in the K-12 budget**

SUPPORTED BY: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids; ReadyNation; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; NAYA Family Center

All Children and Families Are Economically Secure

Give working families a fair shot

- **Increase the number of children and families served by Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)**

SUPPORTED BY: Family Forward Oregon; Oregon Center for Public Policy; Oregon Hunger Task Force; Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children; Children's Trust Fund of Oregon; Fight Crime: Invest in Kids; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Oregon Food Bank; Oregon Head Start Association; Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon; Sable House; Service Employees International Union, Local 503; YWCA of Greater Portland

- **Allow more families to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and to avoid abrupt cut-off of support as income from work increases**

SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Hunger Task Force; Oregon Center for Public Policy; Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Oregon Food Bank; Oregon Head Start Association; Sable House; YWCA of Greater Portland

- **Raise the minimum wage for Oregon's workers**

SUPPORTED BY: Service Employees International Union, Local 503; Oregon Center for Public Policy; Oregon Hunger Task Force; Causa; Tax Fairness Oregon; Family Forward Oregon; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon; Sable House; YWCA of Greater Portland

- **Remove questions about criminal history from job applications ("Ban the Box")**

SUPPORTED BY: Center for Intercultural Organizing; Urban League of Portland; ImpactNW; Family Forward Oregon; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Health Equity Alliance; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Oregon Center for Public Policy; Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health; Sable House; Service Employees International Union, Local 503; YWCA of Greater Portland

- **Renew and expand the Oregon Individual Development Account Initiative tax credit**

SUPPORTED BY: Neighborhood Partnerships; Oregon Housing Alliance; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; ImpactNW; Oregon Head Start Association

- **Enact protections against wage theft**

SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Center for Public Policy; Service Employees International Union, Local 503; ImpactNW; Tax Fairness Oregon; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; YWCA of Greater Portland

Empower families to be physically and financially healthy

- **Enact Earned Sick Days**

SUPPORTED BY: Family Forward Oregon; UFCW, Local 555; Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon; Oregon Health Equity Alliance; Oregon Center for Public Policy; Causa; Service Employees International Union, Local 503; ImpactNW; Latino Network; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon Public Health Association; Oregon School Nurses Association; Sable House; Urban League of Portland; YWCA of Greater Portland

- **Enact Basic Health Plan to increase health care affordability for families under 200% of the federal poverty level**

SUPPORTED BY: Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Oregon Center for Public Policy; Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health; Oregon Head Start Association; Oregon Health Equity Alliance; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association; Sable House; YWCA of Greater Portland

- **Renew the Working Family Child Care Tax Credit**

SUPPORTED BY: Children's Trust Fund of Oregon; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Oregon Center for Public Policy; Oregon School Nurses Association; Sable House; Service Employees International Union, Local 503; YWCA of Greater Portland

- **Fully fund Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) Farm Direct so families with low-incomes can access more fruits and vegetables**

SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Hunger Task Force; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Oregon Food Bank; Oregon Head Start Association; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association; Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon; Sable House

- **Enact Paid Family Leave Insurance**

SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Center for Public Policy; ImpactNW; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Oregon School Nurses Association; Sable House; YWCA of Greater Portland

Help all families have a safe, stable, affordable place to call home

- **Allocate an additional \$8 million to the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP)**

SUPPORTED BY: Neighborhood Partnerships; Oregon Housing Alliance; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Sable House

- **Support \$85 million in General Obligation Bonds and \$15 million in Lottery Backed Bonds to provide increased housing opportunities**

SUPPORTED BY: Neighborhood Partnerships; Oregon Housing Alliance; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Sable House

- **Utilize \$20 million in Lottery Backed Bonds to preserve currently affordable homes**

SUPPORTED BY: Neighborhood Partnerships; Oregon Housing Alliance; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Sable House

All Children Are Physically and Mentally Healthy

Provide a healthy start for all children

- **Ensure that all kids have access to health care by ending the categorical exclusion of 17,600 children from health care services in Oregon**

SUPPORTED BY: *Causa; Oregon Latino Health Coalition; Healthy Kids Learn Better; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Oregon Center for Public Policy; Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health; Oregon Head Start Association; Oregon Health Equity Alliance; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association; Sable House; YWCA of Greater Portland*

- **Expand evidence-based home visiting services**

SUPPORTED BY: *Children's Institute; Fight Crime: Invest In Kids; ReadyNation; Children's Trust Fund of Oregon; Oregon Head Start Association; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association; Sable House; YWCA of Greater Portland*

- **Provide access to school lunches for 30,000 children by eliminating the reduced-price co-pay**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Hunger Task Force; Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon; Healthy Kids Learn Better; ImpactNW; Oregon Food Bank; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association; Sable House; YWCA of Greater Portland*

- **Maintain/expand funding for statewide Farm to School and School Garden programs**

SUPPORTED BY: *Upstream Public Health; American Heart Association; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Food Bank; Oregon Head Start Association; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon Public Health Association; Oregon School Nurses Association*

- **Achieve recommended nurse:student ratio of 1:750**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon School Nurses Association; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon Public Health Association; Sable House*

- **Enhance funding for School-Based Health Centers**

SUPPORTED BY: *Healthy Kids Learn Better; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon Public Health Association; Oregon School-Based Health Alliance; Oregon School Nurses Association; Sable House*

- **Give pregnant women receiving medical assistance timely access to specialty dental services**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Primary Care Association; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Head Start Association; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association; Sable House*

- **Prohibit licensed professional mental health providers from using discredited "conversion therapy" on minors**

SUPPORTED BY: *Basic Rights Oregon; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association*

- **Increase state investment in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Food Bank; Oregon School Nurses Association*

- **Fund culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach and education to new mothers and vulnerable communities about the prenatal care program**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Latino Health Coalition*

- **Provide an additional \$5 million next biennium to continue to support the Pay for Prevention model**

SUPPORTED BY: *Catholic Community Services*

Safeguard kids in school and at home

- **Close the gap in emergency assistance for victims of domestic violence by including victims of sexual assault and increasing the allowable assistance**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women; Oregon Law Center; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; ImpactNW; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; NAYA Family Center; Sable House; YWCA of Greater Portland*

- **Increase capacity of the DHS Co-located Advocates program to ensure immediate access to emergency safety planning and support services**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women; Oregon Law Center; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Sable House; YWCA of Greater Portland*

- **Protect children from air pollution by phasing out older diesel engines that power school buses, large trucks and construction equipment**

SUPPORTED BY: *Neighbors for Clean Air; Oregon Environmental Council; American Lung Association in Oregon; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Oregon Pediatric Society*

- **Require disclosure and phase-out of toxic chemicals in children's products**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Environmental Council; Healthy Kids Learn Better; Oregon Center for Christian Voices; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon Public Health Association; Sable House*

- **Require guns in the home to be safely secured**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety; ImpactNW; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon Public Health Association; Sable House; YWCA of Greater Portland*

- **Restrict gun ownership by domestic abusers through background checks**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety; ImpactNW; Oregon Pediatric Society; Sable House; YWCA of Greater Portland*

- **Implement federal law prohibiting firearm possession by certain domestic violence offenders**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women; Oregon Law Center; ImpactNW; Oregon Pediatric Society; Sable House; YWCA of Greater Portland*

- **Require background checks for all gun sales and close the gaps that make it easy for felons, domestic abusers and the dangerously mentally ill to buy guns**

SUPPORTED BY: *Moms Demand Action, Oregon Chapter; Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety*

- **Direct the Oregon Health Authority to set a value on child abuse assessments and direct insurance payers to reimburse at that level**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers*

- **Fully fund the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention (CAMI) Account**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers*

Ensure all children and families are treated equally under the law

- **Prohibit law enforcement from stopping persons of color, homeless people and LGBTQ people without reasonable suspicion**

SUPPORTED BY: *Center for Intercultural Organizing; Family Forward Oregon; Service Employees International Union, Local 503; Oregon Health Equity Alliance; Urban League of Portland; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health; YWCA of Greater Portland*

- **Collect data on potentially discriminatory stops**

SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Health Equity Alliance; Urban League of Portland; YWCA of Greater Portland; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health*

- **Allow judges to decide whether or not to impose lifetime registration for juvenile sex offenders**

SUPPORTED BY: *Youth Rights & Justice*

- **Limit the use and duration of solitary confinement in youth correctional facilities**

SUPPORTED BY: *Center for Intercultural Organizing; ImpactNW; NAYA Family Center; YWCA of Greater Portland*

Promote healthy activities for kids

- **Keep junk food marketing out of schools**

SUPPORTED BY: *Upstream Public Health; Oregon Health Equity Alliance; American Heart Association; Healthy Kids Learn Better; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association*

- **Provide block grants for YouthPass Transportation**
SUPPORTED BY: *Upstream Public Health; Oregon Environmental Council; Healthy Kids Learn Better; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association; Stand for Children*

- **Prohibit e-cigarette sales to minors and include e-cigarettes in the Indoor Clean Air Act**
SUPPORTED BY: *American Lung Association in Oregon; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association*

- **Raise the age for tobacco purchases to 21 years old and require licensing for tobacco retailers**
SUPPORTED BY: *American Heart Association; American Lung Association in Oregon; NAYA Family Center; Oregon Pediatric Society; Oregon School Nurses Association*

Help all children prepare for adulthood

- **Promote financial literacy by allowing foster youth to have a bank account of their own**
SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Foster Youth Connection; NAYA Family Center; New Avenues for Youth*

- **Encourage access to extracurricular activities for foster youth**
SUPPORTED BY: *Oregon Foster Youth Connection; NAYA Family Center; New Avenues for Youth*

- **Ensure decision making for adoption and long-term placements are based on foster children's best interests**
SUPPORTED BY: *Youth Rights & Justice; New Avenues for Youth; Oregon Pediatric Society*



Agenda Participants

All Born (In) • American Heart Association • Catholic Community Services • Center for Intercultural Organizing • Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization • Moms Demand Action, Oregon Chapter • Neighbors for Clean Air • Northwest Down Syndrome Association • Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women • Oregon Food Bank • Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health • Oregon Law Center • Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers • Oregon Pediatric Society • Sable House



Oregon Hunger Task Force
Creating Policies for a Hunger-Free Oregon



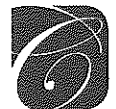
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