WHERE TO FIND LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY UPDATES

www.ffcmh.org/legislation-and-advocacy  |  (240) 403-1901  |  mcovington@ffcmh.org
NATIONALLY
Advancing Health Care Policy for Mental Health and Addiction

www.abhw.org/advocacy
For Advocacy Issues

https://services.aap.org/en/advocacy/

State-Focused Advocacy

https://services.aap.org/en/advocacy/state-advocacy/
The Center aims to improve children's lives through advances in law, justice, knowledge, practice and public policy.

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/
Child Trends is the nation’s leading research organization focused exclusively on improving the lives of children and youth, especially those who are most vulnerable.

https://www.childtrends.org/
ChildFocus connects people, programs and policy to support non-profits, philanthropy and government as unrelenting champions for children, youth and families.

https://www.childfocuspartners.com/
The Children’s Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

https://www.childrensdefense.org/activism/advocacy/speak-up/
The Child Welfare League Of America (CWLA) is a powerful coalition of hundreds of private and public agencies that since 1920 has worked to serve children and families who are vulnerable. Their expertise, leadership and innovation on policies, programs, and practices help improve the lives of millions of children across the country.

https://www.cwla.org/
Building on a long history of championing personal advocacy, DBSA also advocates for placing peers at the forefront when determining needs and best practices for mental health services. They support both policy and media related advocacy at national and state levels, ensuring the needs and concerns of peers are front and center in policy, service delivery, and treatment decisions.

https://www.dbsalliance.org/get-involved/advocacy-center/
Kids should grow up in safe, stable and secure families who support their long-term well-being. Research makes clear — growing up in a family is essential for all kids, especially those who have experienced abuse or neglect. Family First is an opportunity moment that offers exciting possibilities for us to be responsive to the specific needs of children, teens and families.
Families USA, a leading national, non-partisan voice for health care consumers, is dedicated to achieving high-quality, affordable health care and improved health for all. Their work is driven by and centered around four pillars: value, equity, coverage, and consumer experience. They view these focus areas - and the various issues unique to each area - as the cornerstones of America’s health care system.

https://familiesusa.org/act/
In 1988, the Foster Family-based Treatment Association, now Family Focused Treatment Association, (FFTA) was founded to develop, promote and support treatment foster care. Over the years, they’ve grown to become the only national, nonprofit association representing treatment foster care programs across North America.

https://www.ffta.org/page/Advocacy
Family Voices is a national organization and grassroots network of families and friends of children and youth with special health care needs and disabilities that promotes partnership with families – including those of cultural, linguistic and geographic diversity – in order to improve healthcare services and policies for children.

Family Voices provides information about current policy proposals that could affect children and their families, the policy-making process, and how families can influence policy decisions. 

FamilyVoices.org/publicpolicy
The First Focus Campaign for Children is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization affiliated with First Focus, a bipartisan children’s advocacy organization. The Campaign for Children advocates directly for legislative change in Congress to ensure children and families are a priority in federal policy and budget decisions.

https://campaignforchildren.org/about-us/
Generations United believes that public policy should meet the needs of all generations and that resources are more wisely used when they connect generations rather than separate them. They promote an intergenerational approach to framing public policies that impact children, youth and older adult issues.

https://www.gu.org/what-we-do/public-policy/
Juvenile Law Center advocates for rights, dignity, equity and opportunity for youth in the child welfare and justice systems. Founded in 1975, Juvenile Law Center is the first non-profit, public interest law firm for children in the country. Through litigation, appellate advocacy and submission of amicus (friend-of-the-court) briefs, policy reform, public education, training, consulting, and strategic communications, they fight for children who come into contact with the child welfare and justice systems.

https://jlc.org/
The Kennedy Forum seeks to transform the way mental health and substance use disorders are treated in our health care system by advancing:

- **PARITY**
- **QUALITY and TRANSPARENCY**
- **INTEGRATION**
- **TECHNOLOGY**
- **BRAIN HEALTH and FITNESS**

[https://www.thekennedyforum.org/](https://www.thekennedyforum.org/)
Mental Health America takes a unique approach to policy. MHA believes policy should ask people what they need to live the lives they want and support them in getting there. Recovery is founded on the principle that people can take on meaningful roles in the community despite mental health challenges, when they receive the support they need. MHA's goal is recovery for all. There is nothing more important than allowing everyone, and those they care about, the chance to live the life they want with meaningful roles in the community.

https://mhanational.org/policy-issues
Take Action
https://nami.quorum.us/action_center/

State Fact Sheets
https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/State-Fact-Sheets

Policy Priorities
https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/Policy-Priorities

Public Policy Reports
www.nami.org/Support-Education/Publications-Reports/Public-Policy-Reports

NAMI’s Federal Advocacy
https://www.quorum.us/spreadsheet/external/WQymilirtkggyATOehgR/
The National Association for Rural Mental Health seeks to promote the linkage of the diverse voices of rural mental health, through its activities as a membership organization. As a national organization, NARMH provides a forum for rural mental health professionals, advocates, and consumers to identify issues and problems, share innovative solutions and model programs, and speak with a shared voice on issues of rural mental health concern.

https://www.narmh.org/index.php/legislative/
NCSL, founded in 1975, represents the legislatures in the states, territories and commonwealths of the U.S. Its mission is to advance the effectiveness, independence and integrity of legislatures and to foster interstate cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information among legislatures.

www.ncsl.org
The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is the oldest judicial membership organization in the country and provides all judges, courts, and related agencies involved with juvenile, family, and domestic violence cases with the knowledge and skills to improve the lives of the families and children who seek justice.

https://www.ncjfcj.org/
Parity is about fairness. Americans with behavioral health conditions often have more difficulty getting the treatment and services they need when compared to individuals seeking other medical care. Explore parity-related information at the federal level regarding legislation, statutes, and regulatory actions since the Federal Parity Law was passed in 2008.

www.paritytrack.org

Federal Parity Reports
State Parity Reports
The Partnership for America’s Children’s mission is to support its network of state and community child advocacy organizations in effective advocacy. The Partnership connects its members to peer expertise and national resources and facilitates interstate collaborations to deepen the level of impact of child advocacy within and across states. It fosters policy expertise, advocacy skills, and strong organizations.

https://foramericaschildren.org/content/about-partnership
The Partnership to End Addiction partners with families, professionals and other organizations to end addiction in this country. Theirs is a public health approach, rooted in science and compassion.

https://drugfree.org/advocate-for-change/
Shatterproof is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reversing the addiction crisis in the United States.
Within Our Reach is an office established within the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities to further the recommendations of the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities.

IN YOUR STATE
The mission of Voices for Alabama's Children is to speak for the well-being of Alabama’s children through research, public awareness and advocacy.

https://alavoices.org/issues/

ALABAMA
The mission of Voices for Alabama's Children is to speak for the well-being of Alabama's children through research, public awareness and advocacy.

https://www.alarise.org/

ALABAMA
https://www.alaskachildrenstrust.org/focus-areas

ALASKA
ARIZONA

https://azchildren.org/

Take Action

https://Azchildren.org/advocacy-and-outreach

District Fact Sheets

https://azchildren.org/advocacy-and-outreach/legislative-district-fact-sheets/
ARKANSAS

https://www.aradvocates.org/issues/be-an-advocate/
The 2020-21 California County Scorecard of Children’s Well-Being delivers a current and comprehensive picture of children’s health, education, and welfare in every one of California’s 58 counties. This report provides county-level data mapping, tracking key indicators of child well being across counties, over time, and by race and ethnicity.

https://www.childrennow.org

CALIFORNIA
https://www.childrenspartnership.org/about/how-we-work/legislation/
Each week during sessions of the Colorado General Assembly, Colorado Children’s Campaign tracks important bills related to the well-being of Colorado’s children.

https://www.coloradokids.org/advocacy/
Issues Campaign

https://ctvoices.org/issue-campaign/

Legislative Blog

https://ctvoices.org/advocacy-news-events/our-voice/voices-from-the-capitol/

CONNECTICUT

https://ctvoices.org/advocacy-news-events/
https://www.delawarepublic.org/programs/legislative-update

DELAWARE
https://iamforkids.org/

- Legislative and Policy Agenda 2021
- Action Alerts
- Legislative Center
The Family Cafe "Let's Talk" Legislative Conference Call Series during Florida's legislative session will keep you up to speed on everything happening in Tallahassee.

Advocacy Toolkit

FLORIDA

https://familycafe.net/
GEORGIA

https://georgiavoices.org

• Weekly Legislative Updates
• Join the Action Network
• Polly’s Two Minute Takes
• Ten Tips for Talking to Lawmakers
• Advocacy Made Easy
Hawaii Children’s Action Network is committed to advocating for children. They address the root causes of poverty and inequity and develop public policies that help children and their families.

https://www.hawaii-can.org/advocacy
Idaho Voices for Children champions policies that help kids and families thrive. They serve as a voice for children in policymaking conversations and drive change in the areas of health, child safety and well-being, education, school readiness and family economic security.

https://www.idahovvoices.org/policy/
ICMHP takes a broad look at children’s mental health by using a public health approach. They know that a comprehensive children’s mental health system must be built on a foundation of quality prevention, promotion, early intervention/identification and treatment services and supports.

https://www.icmhp.org/
The mission of MCCOY is to champion the positive development of youth through leadership on key issues and support of the youth worker community.

https://mccoouth.org/advocate/
Common Good Iowa is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization built on a collective 50 years of experience of two respected Iowa organizations — the Child and Family Policy Center and Iowa Policy Project. Our team of policy advocates and researchers leverage reliable data, solid analysis and collaborative relationships to craft people-centered policy solutions for our state’s most pressing issues.
For 40 years, Kansas Action for Children has listened to families and the organizations that support them, gathered data that reflects their realities, then shared this work with lawmakers.

https://www.kac.org/
Agenda for Children was founded to make Louisiana a state in which all children can thrive, by ensuring that the basic needs of children and families are met, that our children are nurtured and well taught, beginning in the early years and continuing through adolescence.

http://agendaforchildren.org/

LOUISIANA
Maine Children’s Alliance works to inform, empower and inspire parents and providers, practitioners and organizations, and advocates and policy makers to make Maine a better place to be a child.

http://mekids.org/
Advocates for Children and Youth work across the entirety of issue areas that impact children and youth: birth to three, child welfare, economic sufficiency, education, health, and justice.

https://www.acy.org/

MARYLAND
The mission of Massachusetts Advocates for Children is to remove barriers to educational and life opportunities for children and youth.

https://www.massadvocates.org/

MASSACHUSETTS
Michigan Alliance for Families is a statewide resource that connects families of children with disabilities to resources to help improve their children’s education.

https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/
The Alliance works with multidisciplinary teams and their communities to strengthen the systems meant to keep children safe with ongoing training, research and advocacy efforts.

https://minnesotachildrensalliance.org
NEBRASKA

https://voicesforchildren.com/

- State Policy Agenda
- Pro Kid Policy Plan
- Pro-Kid Legislative Scorecard
Children’s Advocacy Alliance serves as an independent voice to advocate on behalf of Nevada’s children and families, as well as those providing services on their behalf, regarding policy changes, resources and crucial community support necessary to ensure safe, stable and healthy families.

https://www.caanv.org/

NEVADA
The Children's System of Care (CSOC) Advisory Council is a multi-disciplinary initiative fixing barriers and improving behavioral health outcomes for children, youth and their families in New Hampshire. The Advisory Council is made up of New Hampshire child and family organizations and agencies focused on mental health and substance use disorders for children, youth and families.

https://nh4youth.org/

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Giving every child the chance to grow up safe, healthy and educated. The mission of Advocates for Children of New Jersey is to identify children’s needs through research, policy and legal analysis, to raise awareness of those needs through strategic communications, and to work with elected officials and other decision-makers to enact effective responses.

https://acnj.org/
The mission of New Mexico Voices for Children is to improve the status, well-being and racial/ethnic equity of New Mexico’s children, families, and communities in the areas of health, education, and economic security by promoting public policies through credible research and effective advocacy.

https://www.nmvoices.org/
The Schuyler Center for Analysis is a nonprofit, policy analysis and advocacy organization working to shape policies to improve health, welfare and human services for all New Yorkers, especially the poor or vulnerable.

https://www.scaany.org/

NEW YORK
NEW YORK

https://thechildrensagenda.org
NEW YORK

The mission of Westchester Children’s Association is to improve the lives of Westchester’s young people by shaping policies and programs to meet their needs and by keeping their well-being at the top of the public agenda.

https://wca4kids.org/
Citizen’s Committee for Children is the leading child advocacy organization in New York City. Foundational to their work are the three pillars: Public Policy, Research and Data, and Civic Engagement.

https://www.cccnewyork.org
NORTH CAROLINA

NC Child
The Voice for North Carolina’s Children

https://www.ncchild.org/

Action Page

https://ncchild.org/get-involved/take-action/

Weekly Legislative Updates

https://www.facebook.com/ncchildorg/
https://www.ndkidscount.org/

NORTH DAKOTA
Ohio Children’s Alliance aims to ensure that Ohio’s evolving public policies result in a system that is integrated, efficient, cost effective and beneficial to those who matter most - children and families.

https://www.ohiochildrensalliance.org/
OKLAHOMA

http://oica.org/legislation/

• For the Children Weekly Column
• Weekly Child Advocate Chat
• Legislative Score Card
The mission of Children First for Oregon is to empower communities to advocate for kids so all children in Oregon can thrive.

https://www.cffo.org/

OREGON
The mission of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children is a strong, effective and trusted voice to improve the health, education and well-being of children and youth in the Commonwealth.

https://www.papartnerships.org/

Pennsylvania
RHODE ISLAND

http://www.rikidscount.org/
The mission of Children’s Trust of South Carolina is to strengthen families and lead communities to prevent child abuse, neglect and injuries in South Carolina.

https://scchildren.org/
Family Connection South Carolina changes lives by making connections, raising awareness and promoting inclusion for those with disabilities and special healthcare needs.

https://www.familyconnectionsc.org/advocacy/
SOUTH DAKOTA

https://www.sdkidscount.org/
The mission of Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth is to lead systems improvement for all children and families through data-driven advocacy, education and collaboration.

https://www.tn.gov/tccy/
TJC advocates for Tennessee’s most vulnerable families and children, so that all Tennesseans can enjoy the dignity, security and opportunity that is every person’s right.
Texans Care for Children drives policy change to improve the lives of Texas children today for a stronger Texas tomorrow.

http://txchildren.org/
The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health’s mission is to -
Transform how communities promote mental health in everyday life.

http://hogg.utexas.edu

TEXAS
https://www.utahchildren.org/

- State Policy
- Federal Policy
- 2021 Legislative Bill Tracker
The mission of Voices for Vermont’s Children is to promote public policy that enhances the lives of children and youth in Vermont.

https://www.voicesforvtkids.org/
The mission of Voices For Virginia's Children is to champion public policies that improve the lives of Virginia’s children.

https://vakids.org/
The mission of Children's Alliance is to improve the well-being of children by effecting positive changes in public policies, priorities and programs.

http://www.childrensalliance.org/
https://wvkidscount.org/

WEST VIRGINIA
The mission of Kids Forward is to inspire action and promote access to opportunity for every kid, every family, and every community in Wisconsin. They envision a Wisconsin where every child thrives.

http://kidsforward.net/
Wyoming Education Association

http://wyoea.org/legislative-updates/

WYOMING
WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR LEGISLATIVE UPDATES?

Please let us know where you get the legislative news for your state.

Send additional organizations and resources to Mcovington@ffcmh.org
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

Follow us for news, updates and action alerts that impact children, youth and families in your state and across the country.

https://www.facebook.com/NationalFederationLegislationAdvocacy