



## 2021-22 Policy Roadmap

### ROADMAP SUMMARY

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) is pleased to present our biennial policy roadmap that aligns with our organizational mission to improve the health, education and well-being of children and youth in the Commonwealth.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put tremendous hardships on Pennsylvania families' well-being and economic security, and has exacerbated existing health, social, educational, financial and other systemic inequities and barriers.

Ensuring each child living in Pennsylvania has the opportunity to reach their full potential means that PPC is committed to considering policy choices that not only improve maternal and child well-being, but also advance racial equity and consider the impacts of those hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn.

Our work to advance equitable policy solutions plays a critical role both in the short-term during the pandemic as well as our longer-term vision, because we can't achieve our goals if any child is left behind.

### HOW WE WORK

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) tracks and analyzes data around child well-being to develop and advocate for public policies to improve the lives of children and families in the Commonwealth. We are independent, non-profit and nonpartisan.



**As the Pennsylvania KIDS COUNT state network partner**, PPC tracks and analyzes data to inform our public policies. We also conduct research on how to improve outcomes for kids and families in the state. This forms the foundation of how we develop our public policy recommendations.



**We serve as a reliable, objective resource** for the media on policies impacting kids along with our regular releases of data-focused reports, fact sheets and other products.



**We work with partners at different coalition tables** to collectively raise our voices and advocate for change, while ensuring family, consumer and provider input informs our efforts.



**PPC educates policymakers – Republicans and Democrats**, in the legislature and in the administration, in Harrisburg and in Washington, DC – to achieve meaningful policy results.

# 2021-22 POLICY ROADMAP



## CHILD WELFARE

Ensure each child in Pennsylvania has the opportunity to grow up in a home where they are safe and protected from abuse and neglect.

- Strengthen the response to child abuse by building a strong and robust community prevention model.
- Improve policies that increase the identification and utilization of kin resources.
- Reduce the use of group care unless it is necessary to meet the time-limited treatment needs of youth.
- Improve outcomes for transition age youth in foster care or exiting to adulthood.
- Monitor policy reform to ensure the child welfare system is adequately supported from both financial and staffing perspectives at the federal, state and county levels.



## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Ensure each child in Pennsylvania has the opportunity for affordable and accessible high-quality early childhood education, including infant and toddler child care, as well as pre-kindergarten education.

- Increase the number of children enrolled in publicly funded, high-quality pre-k.
- Increase the number of Child Care Works eligible children, specifically infants and toddlers, in high-quality child care programs.
- Investigate policies that support children with developmental delays and disabilities through early intervention programs, while also providing ongoing supports to parents and providers.



## HOME VISITING

Ensure each child in Pennsylvania has the opportunity to grow up in a safe and healthy home environment.

- Increase the number of children and families receiving evidence-based home visiting services to strengthen families and meet the comprehensive needs of infants and young children most in need of services.



## K-12 EDUCATION

Ensure each child in Pennsylvania has the opportunity for an adequate and equitable high-quality public education.

- Support increased investments in basic education funding as well as evaluate and recommend strategies to address and advance adequacy and equity.
- Ensure adequate state funding for career and technical education so that every child who is interested can participate.
- Continue to develop a comprehensive and transparent accountability framework for schools and their personnel.
- Ensure that students have the adequate supports to meet their special needs.



## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Ensure each pregnant woman and child in Pennsylvania has the opportunity for affordable, quality health care access.

- Extend access to prenatal and postpartum services within Medicaid for mothers to ensure expecting mothers, infants, and toddlers start and stay healthy.
- Build on the success of Medicaid and CHIP to ensure every Pennsylvania child is insured.
- Promote the positive health outcomes for children as a direct result of Medicaid, CHIP and/or the Affordable Care Act.
- Assure that children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP are receiving dental care, as oral health is a key measure of overall health.
- Assure that children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP have adequate benefit packages to meet their needs, and that they are appropriately participating in well-child visits as well as receiving immunizations and screenings necessary for their healthy development
- Promote efforts to identify and prevent lead exposure in children to ensure their healthy development.
- Increase access to healthy nutrition for women and young children to ensure healthy development.