



2023-24 Policy Roadmap

ROADMAP SUMMARY

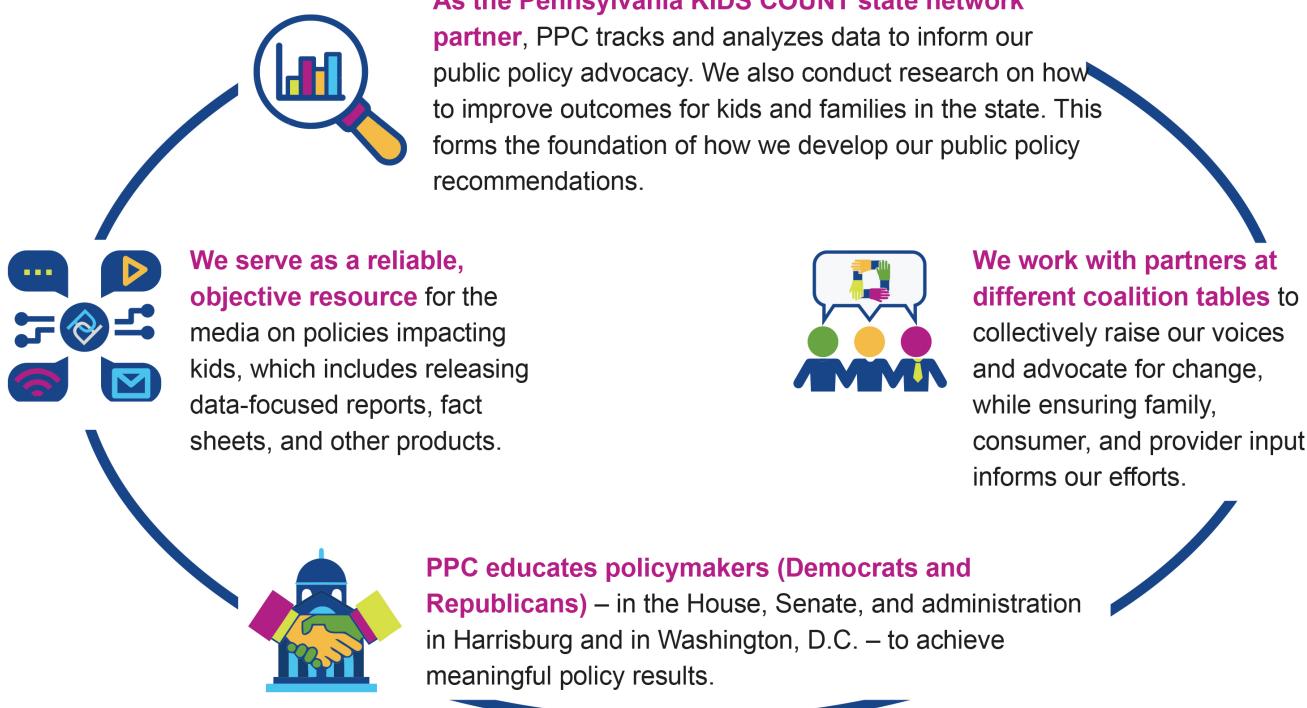
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children proudly presents its biennial policy roadmap that aligns with our organizational mission to improve the health, education, and well-being of children and youth in the commonwealth.

Ensuring each child living in Pennsylvania can reach their full potential means that PPC is

committed to policy choices that improve maternal and child well-being, advance racial equity and support economically disadvantaged families.

Our work to advance equitable policy solutions plays a critical role in our long-term vision because we can't achieve our goals if any child is left behind.

HOW WE WORK



2023-24 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.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the response to child abuse and neglect by building a 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. Ensure that biological parents, caregivers, and children and youth receive adequate mental and behavioral health services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> to avoid the need for formal child welfare intervention and foster care placement. Monitor policy reform to ensure the child welfare system's ongoing financial and staffing support at the federal, state, and county levels. 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. Continue to partner with the Office of Children, Youth, and Families (OCYF) on the federal and local needs for system improvement.
	EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION	Ensure each child in Pennsylvania has the opportunity to participate in affordable and accessible high-quality early care and education, including infant and toddler child care, as well as pre-kindergarten education.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of children enrolled in publicly funded, high-quality pre-k. Increase the number of Child Care Works eligible children in high-quality child care programs, specifically infants and toddlers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Research opportunities to strengthen Infant Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) through collaboration with early childhood education and health systems, including Early Intervention (EI). Support economic policies that benefit children and their families.
	HOME VISITING	Ensure each child in Pennsylvania has the opportunity to grow up in a stable and healthy home environment.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of children and families receiving evidence-based home visiting services. Support the home visiting workforce and program sustainability by ensuring that adequate staffing levels correspond with service expansion and by building a qualified and culturally informed workforce to meet families' needs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the Childhood Begins at Home campaign to include new evidence-based home visiting models receiving state funding and explore inviting other supportive partners to elevate community voices.
	K-12 EDUCATION	Ensure each child in Pennsylvania has the opportunity for an adequate and equitable high-quality public education.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support increased investments in basic education and special education funding as well as evaluate and recommend strategies to address and advance adequacy and equity. Produce publicly available and easily digestible education data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender. Ensure adequate state funding for career and technical education (CTE) so that every interested child can participate. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop a comprehensive and transparent accountability framework for schools and their personnel. Conduct a landscape analysis of how local education agencies offer and provide mental health services to students.
	PERINATAL & CHILD HEALTH	Ensure each birthing person and child in Pennsylvania has the opportunity for affordable, quality health care access.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Extend access to prenatal and postpartum services within Medicaid and CHIP for pregnant adults 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 positive health outcomes for children as a direct result of Medicaid, CHIP, and the Affordable Care Act. Ensure children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP have adequate benefit packages to meet their needs and that they are appropriately receiving the well-child visits, immunizations, and 	<p>screenings necessary for their healthy development, as well as accessing mental and dental health services.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote efforts to identify and prevent lead exposure in children to ensure their healthy development. Advance policies that support children identified with developmental delays and disabilities through early intervention programs, while also providing ongoing support to parents and providers. Increase access to healthy nutrition for women and young children to ensure healthy development.