

2021 Legislative Priorities

Responding to the immediate needs of the pandemic and beyond, we urge lawmakers to...

- **Center the needs of kids and families:** keep the voices and lived experiences of children, youth and families across Washington state, especially those from communities of color and other marginalized communities, centered in any proposed legislation.
- **Advance racial equity:** in meaningful alignment with the demands of BIPOC communities and the Governor's proposed budget priorities, prioritize racial equity in any pandemic-relief action in recognition of the disproportionate impact Covid-19 has had on communities of color while simultaneously advocating for policies that advance racial justice, address the root causes of inequities, and work to dismantle oppressive structures.
- **Keep their fiscal commitments:** in response to the economic impact of the pandemic, work collaboratively with legislators on a bipartisan basis to supplement potential federal funding to maintain critical investments for children, youth, and families; do not balance the budget on the backs of Washington's kids.

Across our areas of focus, our legislative priorities for the 2021 legislative session are:

- **BASIC NEEDS:** Ensure basic needs are met through holistic investments in the health, housing, nutrition, safety, and well-being of children, youth, and families.
- **EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE:** Invest in affordable, accessible, and quality childcare and early learning programs.
- **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:** Prioritize the preservation of funding streams to support youth development programs that provide holistic resources, including youth workforce development programs, and focus on young people's recovery during the pandemic.
- **SPECIAL NEEDS:** Protect existing services and provide broad, accessible programs for children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and other special needs.
- **CHILD WELFARE:** Invest in equitable and comprehensive services to support children, youth, and families impacted by the child welfare and foster care systems while working to accelerate alternatives to removing children from their family home through preventative whole family supports.
- **JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM:** Support transformation of juvenile justice system to prioritize community-based interventions, diversion, restorative alternatives, and wraparound supports to help prevent children and youth involvement in juvenile justice systems.

For media inquiries or questions about our legislative priorities, please contact:
Jess Agi (she/her) - CCF Executive Director: jess@childrenscampaignfund.org

**While K-12 education is unquestionably a priority impacting children, youth, and families, it is not a specific area of focus for CCF; we continue to lean on the dedicated advocates working in this space and any individual items relating to learning and development more broadly are otherwise reflected within our priorities.*



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