



Children's Agenda Impact Five Years of Policy Wins for Our Children

Launched in 2014 to bring together children's advocates, the Children's Agenda has become a single place where legislators and advocates can see the breadth of ideas put forward each legislative session to improve children's lives. The first Children's Agenda in 2015 began with 62 advocacy partners and included 61 policy concepts. In the four subsequent years, through short and long sessions, the number of Children's Agenda partners has grown each year, with 110 partner organizations in 2019.

Our goal has been to look beyond single programs, and to help build connections between organizations across different program areas. We know that children and families often need multiple programs and supports, and just as we want programs to work together to support families, advocates are stronger and more effective when we work together.

For each Children's Agenda between 2015 and 2019, the legislative wins and approximate number of children impacted are compiled below. Despite this long list of legislative wins for children, there is much more to be done. Please join us in the on-going work and commitment to make sure that **#ourchildren** have an opportunity to thrive.

2015 Children's Agenda Wins

Economic Security: more than 89,000 children impacted

- Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) reforms ([HB 2015](#)) helped the 14,000 children with subsidized child care
- Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) improvements ([HB 3535](#)) helped the 34,000 children in deep poverty
- Expanded Individual Development Account (IDA) tax credit ([HB 2171](#)) helped families with about 1,600 children
- Renewing and combining the Working Family/Child Care tax credit ([HB 2171](#)) helped 40,000 children
- Emergency Housing ([SB 5513](#)) aid increase of \$2 million meant 140 more children with shelter

Early Childhood: 4,500 children served

- Creation of Preschool Promise ([HB 3380](#)) serving 1,300 three and four year olds with high quality, mixed delivery preschool

- Expanded home visiting ([HB 5016](#)) meant improvements for 3,200 infant/toddlers

K-12 Education Improvements: 17,000 children helped

- Created separate English Language Learner (ELL) funding formula ([HB 3499](#)) that now reaches 17,284 students with \$10.8 million per biennium

School Nutrition: 239,000 children reached

- Maintain and expand farm to school programs ([SB 5507](#)) by \$3.3 million that now serves 239,000 students

Tax Savings

- Reformed Gain Share ([SB 129](#)) saved \$26 million per year by limiting state payments to make up for county property tax exemptions

Note: One million dollars equals each of these items

- A year of high-quality preschool for 90 children from low-income families
- A year of culturally specific Kindergarten readiness programs for 250 children
- A full year of safe, nurturing child care to support stable employment of 55 families
- Nurses' home visits for 1,600 new parents who wish to receive support

Additional wins harder to quantify

- Housing bonding ([HB 5006](#)) with \$100 million in affordable housing
- Banned toxics in children's toys ([SB 478](#)) although it is [still being implemented](#) with the first deadline in 2022
- Hunger Response Fund ([SB 5507](#)) added \$400,000 one-time funds
- Limit expulsions of young children ([SB 553](#)) and prohibit expulsions for truancy ([SB 556](#))
- Foster youth access to their own saving accounts ([HB 2889](#)) and access to at least one ongoing extracurricular activity ([HB 2890](#))
- Background checks for gun purchases ([SB 941](#))
- Prohibit use of Conversion Therapy on LGBTQ youth ([HB 2307](#))
- Ban the Box ([HB 3025](#)) preventing hiring discrimination by criminal history before the first interview

2016 Children's Agenda Wins

Economic Security

- Most notable: Increased the [Minimum Wage](#) ([SB 1532](#)) helping hundreds of thousands of children
- Increased Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for families with children younger than three years old ([HB 4110](#)) by 3 percentage points of federal credit – helping at least 62,000 infants/toddlers

Economic Security items difficult to quantify

- Prohibit rent increases in the first year of a month-to-month lease ([HB 4143](#))
- Inclusionary Zoning ([SB 1533](#))
- Allow workers access to their employment records ([SB 1587](#))

Health Care

- Affordable health care for Compact of Free Association (COFA) Islanders ([HB 4071](#)) for about 250 children made eligible

Early Childhood

- Budget correction for Head Start of \$5.3 million ([SB 5701](#)) meant improvements for 13,000 enrolled children
- Better screening leads to more kids needing EI/ECSE (Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education) for \$5.4 million ([SB 5701](#)) meant improvements among the 15,000 already served

2017 Children's Agenda Wins

Health Improvements – more than 20,000 children helped

- Cover All Kids ([SB 558](#)) now reaching 7,000 of the 17,600 eligible kids (originally proposed in 2015's [HB 3517](#))
- Tobacco 21 ([SB 754](#)) criminalized selling but not possessing for those under 21 – and meant about 13,200 fewer children (15-17 years old) began smoking (first bill after two previous attempts)
- Vitamin K for newborns ([HB 2644](#)) – about 400 of children born per year in Oregon would face dangerous internal bleeding without Vitamin K injections

Health Improvements difficult to quantify

- Reproductive Health Equity ([HB 3391](#)) allowed health care services for all mothers, whatever their documentation status
- Phase out dirty diesel school buses ([SB 1008](#)) (from 2015's [SB 824](#))
- No gun ownership for domestic violence abusers ([SB 719](#))
- Rear facing car seats ([HB 3404](#)) for children up to two years old to promote safe practices' behavior to save serious injury for dozens each year

Economic Security – protected or expanded services to more than 10,000 children

- Energy Assistance Funding ([HB 2134](#)) increased by \$5 million serving 10,000 more households and thousands of children
- Protected TANF from discouraging relatives ([HB 5006](#)) from housing TANF eligible children and helped hundreds of children

- Family Preservation Project ([HB 5006](#) originally [SB 242](#)) \$400,000 to continue YWCA's work for incarcerated mothers and maintain custody of at least 20 children

School and Health – 60,000 more active kids and all school age children have more access to exercise

- Safe Routes to School ([HB 2017](#)) – 60,000 school children use these routes
- PE for All Kids ([SB 4](#)) – all school age children have better access to physical education

Other items difficult to quantify

- Fair Work Week ([SB 828](#)) – allowing workers to plan their child care
- Equal pay ([HB 2005](#)) – helping ensure several groups have access to fair wages
- Profiling data collection ([HB 2355](#)) (Informing workgroup extended by 2016's [HB 4003](#))
- Sibling Bill of Rights for Foster Youth ([HB 2216](#))
- Uniform High School Graduation Requirements for Foster Youth ([HB 3267](#)) since foster youth move so often, enables them to more likely graduate with their peers

2018 Children's Agenda Wins

Economic Security

- Document recording fee tripled ([HB 4007](#)) \$30 million/year for more affordable housing meaning hundreds more children can have affordable housing every year

Education

- Special education continuity ([SB 1528](#)) ensures about 30 children per year with diagnosed delays receive needed services

Health & Safety – difficult to determine number of children helped

- School Mental Health Fund ([HB 5201](#)) with \$950,000 in new funding to bring more mental health providers to schools
- Allows reinstatement of parental rights ([HB 4009](#)) in certain circumstances
- Closed the boyfriend loophole ([HB 4145](#)) for gun safety so guns can be removed in cases of domestic violence even if the couple lives apart

Tax savings

- Maintained \$200 million/year that would have been lost due to federal tax code changes

2019 Children's Agenda Wins

Housing Stability

- Ending No Cause Evictions ([SB 608](#)) and limiting rent gouging built on previous tenant protections

- Increased investments for Emergency Housing ([SB 5512](#)) by \$50 million
- Increased bonding for affordable housing ([HB 5005](#)) by \$150 million

Economic Security

- Paid Family Leave ([HB 2005](#)) for every working parent (Many previous attempts including 2017's [HB 3087](#))
- Strengthen TANF services ([HB 2032](#)) investing in housing and pilot programs
- Equal Access to Roads ([HB 2015](#)) allowing all working parents to drive to work

Student Success Act ([HB 3427](#) with budget authorization [HB 5047](#)) created dedicated revenue to pay for education

- Relief Nursery funding expanded by \$5.6 million serving an additional 710 children
- Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten funding expanded by \$133 million to improve services for 12,000 students
- Early Learning Equity Fund created with \$20 million to provide culturally-specific preschool programs for 3,500 children (started in 2017's [HB 3069](#))
- EI/ECSE at Evidence Based Levels with \$75 million so the 15,500 children with diagnosed conditions will get the services they need
- Latino Student Success Plan joins other culturally specific student success plans to help thousands of students receive culturally appropriate education
- Universal School Meals implemented to make sure students facing food insecurity will have access to a nutritious school meal
- Support Social and Emotional Needs of Students with funding targeted to needed services

Other Education

- Title IX enforcement ([HB 2562](#)) to support girls and LGBTQ youth among all school children

Early Childhood – 45,000 children born each year helped

- Universally Offered Home Visiting ([SB 526](#)) will offer 1-3 nurse visits for each new parent

Health & Safety

- Medicaid Funding ([HB 2010](#))
- Tobacco Tax Referral ([HB 2270](#))
- Strengthening Support for the Most Vulnerable Children ([SB 1](#))
- Require schools to have suicide prevention plans and develop template ([SB 52](#))

Criminal Justice

- Youth Sentencing Reform ([SB 1008](#))

Investments in child welfare – 11,000 children in the system each year impacted

- More staff ([HB 5026](#))
- Foster Parent training ([HB 5026](#))
- Preventing unnecessary placements ([HB 2849](#))