



NH CAN 2011
Partners, Advisors, Steering Committee



**Children's Alliance of
New Hampshire**

Raising Our Voices for Children

NH CAN is a program of the Children's Alliance of New Hampshire

Partners

- Alliance for Community Supports
- American Federation of Teachers
- Bi-State Primary Care Association
- Breathe NH
- Casey Family Services
- Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities
- Child and Family Services
- Children First Mediation and Family Bonds
- Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
- Community Loan Fund
- Concord Substance Abuse Coalition
- Council for Children and Adolescents with Chronic Health Conditions
- Disabilities Rights Center, Inc.
- Early Learning NH
- Education-A-Must
- Endowment for Health
- Every Child Matters
- Families for Justice
- Family Assistance Advisory Council
- Family Education Collaborative
- Family Resource Center of Central NH
- Family Resource Center at Gorham
- Familystrength
- Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains
- Granite State Coalition Against Expanded Gambling
- Granite State Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
- Granite United Way
- Head Start State Parent's Association
- Institute for Health, Law & Ethics at UNH School of Law
- Keene Police Officer's Association
- League of Women Voter's of New Hampshire
- LEAH Advocacy Group
- Lutheran Social Services of NH, Inc.
- Mountain View Counseling
- National Alliance on Mental Illness NH (NAMI NH)
- National Education Association
- New Futures, Inc.
- NFI North
- NH Association for the Education of Young Children
- NH Chapter-National Association of Social Workers
- NH Child Care Resource & Referral Network
- NH Children's Trust Fund
- NH Citizen's Alliance
- NH Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
- NH Congress of Parents and Teachers
- NH Council of Churches
- NH Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders
- NH Dental Society
- NH Fiscal Policy Institute
- NH Healthy Kids Corp
- NH Healthy Schools Coalition
- NH Legal Assistance
- NH Medical Society
- NH Network of Child Advocacy Centers
- NH Oral Health Coalition
- NH Partners in Service
- NH Pediatric Society
- NH Police Association
- NH Safe Kids - Injury Prevention Center
- NH School Administrator's Association
- NH School Counselor's Association

- NH School Nurse's Association
- NH Voices for Health
- NH Women's Lobby and Alliance
- Parent Information Center
- Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
- Richie McFarland Children's Center
- Rockingham Community Action Program
- Spaulding Youth Center
- The Way Home
- UNH Cooperative Extension
- United Way of Northern NH

Advisors

- Merrimack County Attorney's Office
- New Hampshire Children's Legal Project
- NH Commission on the Status of Men
- NH Department of Health and Human Services:
 - Division for Children, Youth, and Families
 - Division of Family Assistance
 - Division of Public Health Services
 - Bureau of Population & Community Services
 - Bureau of Prevention Services
 - Bureau of Special Medical Services
- Senator Nancy Stiles
- Representative Rich DiPentima
- Representative Ken Gidge
- Representative Dick Patten
- Representative Patrick Long
- Representative James Mackay
- Representative Mary Jane Wallner
- Representative Robert Williams
- Representative Bill Butynski
- Representative Robert "Randy" Foose
- Representative Carolyn Gargas
- Representative Mary Stuart Gile
- Representative Franklin Gould
- Representative Anne Grassie
- Representative Robert Matheson
- Representative James Pilliod
- Representative Cindy Rosenwald
- Representative Suzanne Smith

NH CAN Steering Committee

- Charlene Baxter, UNH Cooperative Extension
- Tom Bunnell, Institute for Health, Law & Ethics at UNH School of Law
- Jackie Cowell, Early Learning NH
- Karen Cusano, NFI North, Inc.
- Jennifer Durant, NH Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence
- Ellen Fineberg, Chair, Children's Alliance of NH
- Mark Joyce, NH School Administrator's Association
- Tricia Lucas, New Futures
- Sarah Mattson, New Hampshire Legal Assistance
- Mike Skibbie, Disabilities Rights Center
- John DeJoie, NH CAN Coordinator

The NH Child Advocacy Network thanks:

Children's Alliance appreciates support throughout the year from:



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For more information on the 2011 Priorities for New Hampshire Children, please visit www.ChildrenNH.org

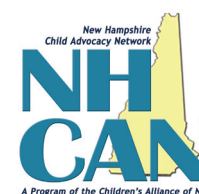
Children's Alliance of NH

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Priorities *for* New Hampshire's Children 2011



NH CAN partners annually develop a consensus set of *Priorities for New Hampshire's Children* focused on **safety and well-being, health and wellness, economic security and education**. This agenda for the state's children informs government policy and budget priorities and inspires community action.



The New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network (NH CAN), a program of the Children's Alliance of New Hampshire, is a statewide, nonpartisan coalition of 100 partners and advisors working to improve the well-being of New Hampshire's children.

Investing In Our Children, Investing In Our Future

New Hampshire's success is based on the power of people working together to maintain our way of life through the careful protection of public structures such as police, fire protection, highways and education. Solid public structures are the foundation of a healthy Granite State on which children, families, and businesses build their lives.

The current economic downturn creates challenges that must be addressed by decision makers for New Hampshire to continue its prosperity. We need to invest in the structures that will build on our economic and social successes. Citizens, businesses and decision makers must work together to develop options that provide an equitable future for all our children.

That is why helping policy makers and the public understand and respond to the fiscal challenges faced by New Hampshire and its impact on our children is a 2011 NH CAN Priority.

Categorical Aid Supports Local Education

State categorical aid programs are critically important. These programs fund school construction, reimburse exceptional special education costs, and support vocational educational tuition and transportation. These funds provide the groundwork to ensure a quality education for all children.

That is why monitoring legislative efforts aimed at reducing and/or diverting funds from state categorical aid programs in public schools is a 2011 NH CAN Priority.

Educational Opportunity for All Children

Over the past several years, the New Hampshire Legislature has fulfilled its obligation to define, cost, fund and create accountability for a constitutionally "adequate" public education system. Our Legislature and decision makers must continue to fund this education system for all New Hampshire's children.

NH CAN will protect all children's right to a quality public education, support efforts to maintain New Hampshire's constitutional definition of adequacy and ensure that the education system receives sufficient monies from the state from reliable revenue sources.

That is why ensuring funding that guarantees an "adequate education" for all public school students is a 2011 NH CAN Priority.



The Children's Alliance of New Hampshire, a non-partisan organization with a twenty year history, publishes credible data and advocates collaboratively with partners across the state for effective policies championing what's best for New Hampshire's children, youth and their families.

EDUCATION

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Handling Youth Misbehavior in Schools not Courts

Schools provide a nurturing and supportive environment for our children to learn and grow into tomorrow's leaders. When children misbehave, schools are in a unique position to work with parents to address this behavior. Unfortunately, a trend has developed in schools where school resource officers are present; many normal school disciplinary issues are referred to courts. In most cases, these behaviors are best dealt with in the school, not in the courts. Utilizing educational approaches to address the child's behavior, and to hold the child accountable for his or her actions, will empower children, parents and schools to make positive choices without resorting to the juvenile justice system.

That is why amending New Hampshire Laws (RSA's) to encourage ordinary disciplinary offenses be addressed by a school-based team, not the court system, is a 2011 NH CAN Priority.

Realistic Child Care Assistance Supports NH's Workforce

The future of our state depends on our ability to foster the health and well-being of the next generation. But recent changes in child care policy run counter to what is best for the state's children. Since February 2010, when New Hampshire's child care assistance for working families was reduced, many families have been unable to find and afford child care that allows them to work. For some families, these subsidies make it possible to remain in the labor force.

During this time of economic recovery, it is important for New Hampshire businesses to have a strong labor market, which require pragmatic solutions such as child care assistance. Our legislature must create child care policies in the New Hampshire spirit that do what's best for our state's businesses and our families.

That is why returning to the realistic child care assistance levels of February 2010, eliminating the state child care wait list and restoring the incentives for quality child care improvements are 2011 NH CAN Priorities.



Community Treatment Is Most Effective for Youth

Community treatment settings are more effective than juvenile detention facilities both for the well-being of children and the long term safety of the community. When children live in the community, they learn to interact and cooperate with other children, form meaningful bonds with positive role models and develop respect for acceptable behavior. Children living in a juvenile detention center lose contact with their well-behaved peers, have difficulty returning to school and are more likely to repeat the offending behaviors upon their return to the community. NH will continue to be successful in re-integrating juveniles in the community by encouraging the use of community programs.

That is why amending New Hampshire laws (RSA's) to encourage the treatment of children in community settings is a 2011 NH CAN Priority.

Healthy Play Spaces, Healthy Kids

We all benefit from pesticide-free lawns, but our children benefit the most. Scientific research shows that lawn pesticides are toxic and are associated with cancer, asthma, neurological disorders and more. Children are most vulnerable to these chemicals, not only because they play closer to the ground, but also because of their physiology. Children's bodies are less able to detoxify and excrete harmful chemicals, causing damage to children's developing immune systems.

An alternative approach focuses on building a healthy soil and lawn community with natural soil additives. The result is a chemical free, healthy lawn that produces long-term economic savings.

That is why reducing the use of toxic lawn pesticides in state parks and school grounds is a 2011 NH CAN Priority.

SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

HEALTH AND WELLNESS