

Make every vote a vote for children

Issue Overview

Ensuring that all of our children have the opportunity to thrive is a wise choice for New Hampshire. New Hampshire values community, and children and families are the foundation of our communities. Strong communities are created when we make wise choices about how to use our limited public resources. New Hampshire depends on it.

In order to maintain these New Hampshire values, it is essential to support policies that demonstrate a commitment to all of the state's residents. That is why a responsible state budget is the foundation of the 2009 Priorities. Together, with responsible management of our resources, we CAN support a state budget that reflects our commitment to all NH children and families.

Children do not share this decision-making responsibility. They trust "the ones in charge" to make the right decisions on their behalf. Children trust the adults, the families, educators, legislators, neighbors and citizens of their state- to make decisions that place their health, safety and education first.

New Hampshire must avoid making budget cuts that result in long-term consequences for our children. Our children are our future and together we CAN make them our top priority.

Proposed Solution

We, the members of the NH Child Advocacy Network, pledge to work with our public officials as they face tough decisions, and always ask the question, "What does this mean for our children?"



Call to Action

Extreme budget shortages call for vigilant and active citizens to stand up for the children of New Hampshire. It is imperative that New Hampshire allows every child access to safe housing, effective education, and quality healthcare. NH CAN member organizations and their clients, as well as NH CAN advisors, are asked to testify at the March budget hearings in their region. Members of the Finance Committee must hear about the needs of children and their families and the threat to their well being that drastic budget cuts would represent.

The New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network (NH CAN) is a statewide, nonpartisan network of child-serving organizations working to improve the well-being of New Hampshire's children by driving government policy, changing budget priorities and inspiring community action. Each year, a consensus of nearly 100 NH CAN partner organizations and advisors develop a collective set of Priorities for New Hampshire's Children, a plan of action for the legislature, state leaders, state agencies and communities that is shared across the Granite State.

2009 Priorities for New Hampshire's Children

2009 priorities

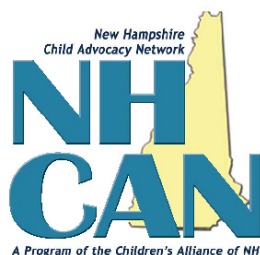
All those who champion children must be prepared to speak out about the challenges facing not only children but their families too. NH CAN members and their clients are asked to have regular conversations with their State Representatives about the direct impact of budget decisions on the services for children and families in their communities.

Find out More

The New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network (NH CAN) is a network of partner organizations working to improve the health and well being of New Hampshire's children by driving governmental policy, changing budget priorities, and inspiring community action. For a list of all NH

CAN members and advisors, see <http://www.childrennh.org/web/nhcan.html>

NH CARES, a network of individuals and organizations, is the leading statewide group working to assure that the state operating budget recognizes and adequately meets the health, mental health, social and economic needs of New Hampshire citizens. NH CARES is a voluntary organization. For more information, contact Gordon Allen at The New Hampshire Developmental Disabilities Council www.nhddc.org or email nhcares@tds.net



**Children's Alliance of
New Hampshire**

Raising Our Voice for Children

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

For more information on the 2009 Priorities for New Hampshire Children, please visit www.ChildrenNH.org
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