

2009

Priorities for New Hampshire's Children



New Hampshire values *community*, and children and families are the foundations of our communities.

Ensuring the *opportunity* for our children to thrive—from quality public education to stable housing for every family—is a *commitment* to community *values*.



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

Ensuring Opportunities for New Hampshire's Children

Strong communities are created when we make wise choices about how to use our limited public resources. New Hampshire depends on it. That is why a responsible state budget is the foundation of the 2009 Priorities. New Hampshire must avoid making budget cuts that result in long-term consequences for our children. Children do not share this decision making responsibility. They trust “the ones in charge” to make the right decisions on their behalf.

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 that mean for our children?”**

priority
#1



Our children are our future and together we can make them our top priority. With responsible management of our resources, we CAN support a state budget that reflects our commitment to all NH children and families.



**Children's Alliance of
New Hampshire**

Raising Our Voices for Children

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.

Raising Healthy Children is a Priority for NH

Children need to be healthy in order to succeed in school and later in life. Dental decay is the most common, chronic childhood disease in America. With well-documented associations between oral disease and lifelong health issues, it is time that our health care system caught up with the needs of our state.

That is why establishing a study commission to improve integration of oral health with primary care services is a 2009 Priority. Together, we CAN prevent childhood dental disease.

priority
#2

Supporting Working Families is a Priority for NH

When families own their own homes or live in stable housing, communities are strengthened and stabilized. Housing rental costs are high in some New Hampshire communities so many families receiving government subsidies do not have adequate funds to pay the rent *and* afford their everyday needs. **That is why, providing supplemental monthly rent vouchers to qualifying families is a 2009 Priority. Together, we CAN ensure adequate and safe housing for every child in NH.**

priority
#3

Providing Quality Education for Everyone is a Priority for NH

Our school discipline laws aim to protect students, staff, and administrators as well as promote a positive learning environment. Data suggests that students are being dismissed from school for offenses that are not violent, nor drug/alcohol related. **That is why establishing a legislative study commission to investigate the current use of RSA 193:13 (Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils) as well as disciplinary alternatives and opportunities to make up missed work is a 2009 Priority. Together, we CAN help students succeed in school.**

priority
#4



**Children's Alliance of
New Hampshire**

Raising Our Voices for Children

2009 Priorities for New Hampshire's Children

Partners

AFSC - NH Economic Justice Project
 AFT - NH
 Alliance for Community Supports
 Appalachian Mountain Teen Project
 Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families
 Bi-State Primary Care Association
 Casey Family Services
 Cedarcrest Center for Children With Disabilities
 Child and Family Services of NH
 Children First Mediation
 Children's Alliance of NH
 Coalition for NH Oral Health Action
 Concord Substance Abuse Coalition
 Council for Children & Adolescents with Chronic Health Conditions
 Crotched Mountain Foundation
 Disabilities Rights Center
 Early Learning NH
 Endowment for Health
 Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire
 Every Child Matters
 Families First Health and Support Center
 Families for Justice
 Family Resource Center - Gorham
 Family Support New Hampshire
 Familystrength
 Foundation for Healthy Communities
 Franklin Pierce Institute for Health, Law & Ethics
 Girl Scouts of Swift Water Council
 Good Beginnings of Sullivan County
 Good News Garage LSS Inc.
 Granite State Coalition Against Expanded Gambling
 Keene Police Officers Association
 League of Women Voters
 March of Dimes NH
 NAMI - NH
 New Futures, Inc.
 NFI North
 NH Association for the Education of Young Children
 NH Chapter - National Association of Social Workers
 NH Children's Trust Fund
 NH Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
 NH Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities
 NH Community Loan Fund
 NH Council of Churches
 NH Dental Hygienist's Association
 NH Dental Society
 NH Developmental Disabilities Council
 NH Headstart Parent's Association
 NH Healthy Kids
 NH Healthy Schools Coalition
 NH Legal Assistance
 NH Safe Kids - Injury Prevention Center
 NH School Administrator's Association
 NH School Counselor's Association
 NH School Nurse's Association
 PlusTime NH
 Richie McFarland Children's Center
 Rockingham County Action Head Start
 Spaulding Youth Center
 The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center
 The HUB Family Resource Center

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

The Way Home
 United Way of Merrimack County
 United Way of Northern NH
 Working Families WIN

Advisors

DHHS Div. of Public Health, Bureau of Community Health Services
 DHHS Div. for Children, Youth, and Families
 DHHS Div. of Public Health, Bureau of Prevention Services
 DHHS, Special Medical Services
 NH Commission on the Status of Women
 Second Start
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The NH Child Advocacy Network thanks the following:



The Children's Alliance expresses its appreciation for those who support our work throughout the year:



The Annie E. Casey Foundation



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