

Priorities *for* New Hampshire's Children 2011

Investing In Our Children, Investing In Our Future

Priority Leaders:

NH CAN

Issue Overview

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.

It is important to remember that budgets are a system of forward exchange – we budget forward, not for immediate exchanges for goods and services but so that we have the money available in the future. In the same way, we have public goods and services now (law enforcement, bridges, roads) because of budgetary decisions made by our predecessors. Interrupting the forward movement of our state now by cutting taxes or essential services can leave future citizens without the facilities and programs to meet their needs. Because the state budget is the instrument New Hampshire citizens have for planning their future, New Hampshire citizens and lawmakers need to have conversations about shared priorities.

It is critical that we respond to these fiscal challenges because the future of New Hampshire depends on its ability to foster the health and well-being of the next generation. Children are the bedrock of a prosperous and sustainable Granite State. NH CAN Partners are committed to helping policy makers and the public understand the state budget's allocations and impact on the lives and services of New Hampshire's children.

Proposed Solution

NH CAN Partners voted to endorse this Priority at the Children's Summit.

New Hampshire's future prosperity rests on its ability to steward our next generation who will live, work and lead in our state. Our health, safety and educational systems are the machinery that create opportunity and quality of life. Our children do best when these public structures are solid.

We call on the Governor and Legislature to adopt a budget that reflects New Hampshire's commitment to the health and well-being of children and families and to consider all available sources of revenue.



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.

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We call on NH-CAN partner organizations to communicate with lawmakers about revenue sources and stand together against any budget decision that would destabilize these essential public structures.

NH CAN Partners will educate themselves about and advocate for the “*public structures*” necessary to “*steward our next generation*”

Call to Action

- Inform legislators of the impact of services to New Hampshire children.
- Advocate for balanced revenue options.
- Advocate against cuts that destabilize essential public structures.

Find out More

The New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network (NH CAN) Partners are leading this NH CAN Priority. NH CAN is comprised of over 100 partner organizations and advisors working to improve the health and wellbeing of New Hampshire's children by driving governmental policy, changing budget priorities, and inspiring community action. For further information, contact John DeJoie, NH CAN Coordinator at jdejoie@childrennh.org.

- **New Hampshire Children's Advocacy Network (NH CAN)**
- **Children's Alliance of New Hampshire.**
 - Download copies of the complete *Priorities for New Hampshire's Children*, additional fact sheets, and information about the New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network at the Children's Alliance website, Childrennh.org/web/nhcan.html. You can also track the progress of all the *Priorities*-related bills, as well as contact your local representatives, under the “Get Active” link.
- **New Hampshire State Budget**
 - Also known as House Bill 1 (HB 1) and House Bill 2 (HB 2).
 - HB1 and HB2 are introduced by the Governor, to the Joint Legislature, in early February
 - After the introduction, the bills will be available on the Legislative Home Page at www.gencourt.state.nh.us .

Reference

1. The Annie E. Casey Foundation(2010), *2010 Kids Count Data Book, State Profiles of Child Well-Being*