

Illuminating Legislative Policy

2021 POLICY AGENDA

For Colorado to remain one of the healthiest economy's in the country we need to work together to build brighter childhoods.

Our future workforce, innovators, leaders and community members can only reach their full potential through **thoughtful development and investment in services and policies that strengthen families and protect children.**

It is essential for elected officials and policy makers to **understand how to prevent child maltreatment and listen to parents** in every community.

FIVE PROTECTIVE FACTORS HAVE BEEN FOUND TO PREVENT CHILD MALTREATMENT.

Protective factors are conditions or attributes in individuals, families, communities or the larger society that help people deal more effectively with stressful events and mitigate or eliminate risk in families and communities.



PARENTAL
RESILIENCE



SOCIAL
CONNECTIONS



CONCRETE SUPPORTS
IN TIMES OF NEED



KNOWLEDGE OF
PARENTING & CHILD
DEVELOPMENT



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL
COMPETENCE OF
CHILDREN

ILLUMINATING POLICY PREVENTS CHILD MALTREATMENT

Illuminate Colorado strengthens families, organizations and communities to prevent child maltreatment. With a research-based approach that emphasizes building promotive and protective factors, we address systemic and multi-sector issues by collaborating with families and partners at the community, state and national level to develop and implement powerful programs, policies and initiatives that keep kids safe in Colorado.

Wondering how a policy prevents child maltreatment?

The **Illuminate Colorado 2021 policy agenda** highlights policies that **build one or more protective factors in Colorado.** To learn more about each policy priority and how **we can help you can strengthen families in your community,** visit illuminatecolorado.org/2021Policy



PRIMARY PREVENTION

THESE STRATEGIES BUILD PROTECTIVE FACTORS IN **ALL FAMILIES** TO PREVENT CHILD MALTREATMENT **BEFORE IT OCCURS**-- INCLUDING ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO BUILDING PROTECTIVE FACTORS ACROSS THE POPULATION.

Policy Priority: Prioritize Primary Prevention in Federal and State Budgets

- Increase Federal MIECHV, CBCAP and CAPTA Spending
- Advance Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Research, Prevention and Services at the Federal Level
- Restore state funding for critical family services including:
 - Family Resource Centers (Family Support line item)
 - Tony Grampas Youth Services Program
 - The Colorado Children's Trust Fund
 - The Governor's Budget Request for Evidence-based Home Visiting Programs as well as to Maintain Nurse Home Visiting Programs
 - The Governor's Budget Request for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) and Colorado Preschool Program (CPP)
 - The Governor's Budget Request to Restore the Child Abuse Response and Evaluation Network
 - The Governor's Budget Request to Restore Child Fatality Prevention System
- Restore Funding for Education about Healthy Child Development
 - General Fund Resources for Adult Education about Child Sexual Abuse Prevention through the Colorado Children's Trust Fund
 - The Governor's Budget Request for Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education
- Restore Family Planning Spending to Support Educational Attainment and Economic Stability of Families by Supporting the Governor's Budget Request for Family Planning Services

Policy Priority: Strengthen Economic Supports to Families

- Expand Access to Stable, Quality, and Affordable Child Care, Especially for Infants and Young Children
- Expand access to Quality, Affordable and Stable Housing Across Colorado
- Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit and Fund the Child Tax Credit

Policy Priority: Implement Family Friendly Work Policies

- Establish and Implement a Statewide Paid Family and Medical Leave Program for Individuals to Care for Themselves and Their Families
- Ensure Livable Wages for Colorado Families



SECONDARY PREVENTION

THESE STRATEGIES BUILD PROTECTIVE FACTORS IN FAMILIES IN **HIGH STRESS SITUATIONS** TO PREVENT CHILD MALTREATMENT **BEFORE IT OCCURS**--INCLUDING ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IN HIGH STRESS SITUATIONS.

Policy Priority: Ensure and Expand Support for Families Impacted by Substance Use

- Ensure Parents and Caregivers have Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Supports Tailored to their Needs by Restoring, Maintaining or Increasing State Funding for Services
- Support the Sustainability and Scope of the Colorado Perinatal Substance Use Data Linkage Project to Ensure Colorado Understands Our Data to Inform Preventative Strategies
- Ensure Equitable Screening and Connection to Behavior Health Resources in Prenatal and Postpartum Care

Policy Priority: Ensure and Expand Support for Families Impacted by Intimate Partner Violence

- Ensure Professionals Have the Knowledge and Resources to Identify and Support Children and Families Impacted by Intimate Partner Violence to Prevent Child Maltreatment



TERTIARY PREVENTION

THESE STRATEGIES BUILD PROTECTIVE FACTORS IN FAMILIES TO **PREVENT RECURRENCE OF CHILD MALTREATMENT**--INCLUDING ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO HEALING & RECOVERY.

Policy Priority: Ensure Communities Identify and Support Children and Families When Abuse and Neglect has Occurred

- Ensure Adults Have the Knowledge and Resources to Identify and Support Children and Families Where Abuse and Neglect has Occurred
- Ensure Families Where Abuse and Neglect Has Occurred Have Equitable Access to Services to Support Healing and Recovery