

Economic Well-Being

Legislative Session 2016

Poverty

Legislation passed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) HB 1604, making the EITC non-refundable beginning January 2016.



Income Tax Credit

Legislation passed HB 1605, which relates to prohibiting child care tax credit.

Child Support

Legislation passed HB 1327, which relates to The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.



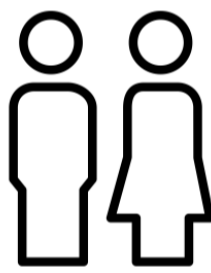
Employee Benefits

Legislation failed to pass HB 2686, which related to parental short-term disability program.



ABLE Accounts

Legislation passed HB 2821, which creates the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) savings Plan Program.



Discriminatory Wages

Legislation failed to pass HB 2929, to prevent gender-based pay discrimination.

Poverty Recommendations

- Repeal the ban on municipalities raising the minimum wage, or raise the State's minimum wage
- As wages increase, DHS benefits should gradually decrease (sliding scale)
- Increase access to healthcare through Medicaid expansion
- Improve recruitment/retention of healthcare providers through incentive programs



Homelessness among Children and Youth and Recommendations

Legislation passed SB1369, directing the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth to include in its annual report regarding the development and improvement of services provided to children and youth recommendations for improvement of services to youth at risk of homelessness and runaways. This bill also includes a definition of "Homeless Children and Youth".

Recommendations:

- Economic incentives for property managers to lease to children, youth and families
- Extension of foster care to 21 instead of 18
 - "Living Wage" minimum wage