

Oklahoma Children's Agenda

OICA works to ensure every child – from birth to adulthood – is nurtured, healthy, educated, protected from harm and thriving. This is our 2017 Children's Agenda.

ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Funding services for low-income and at-risk children is a moral imperative and a defining feature of any civilized, compassionate society. We recognize 2017 is a challenging budget year, but we will not accept any cuts to programs that serve low-income or at-risk children. That includes the Department of Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Affairs, the Department of Education and the state's Medicaid program.

We urge our Legislature to explore new sources of revenue to prevent cuts that could negatively impact our children and negatively impact Oklahoma's long term prosperity.

FOSTER CARE IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER CHILD WELLBEING MEASURES

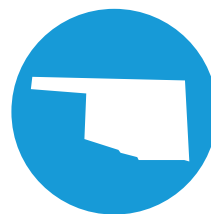
All children deserve loving, safe and stable homes. To achieve that goal, we support the successful completion of the Pinnacle Plan, the state's program to improve the Child Welfare system for children in state custody. Additionally, we are committed to supporting permanent improvements even after the completion of the Pinnacle Plan. Our policy checklist (opposite side) includes several reform measures, chief among them SB 727, that contain important and permanent proposals to improve DHS operations.

Additionally, we support policies that improve child health and nutrition. OICA thanks legislators for their overwhelming support of measures like HB 1875, which help schools and food banks partner to reduce hunger and improve nutrition among students.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Oklahoma's overincarceration crisis is breaking up families, leaving children without parents and perpetuating a never-ending cycle of poverty and crime. Approximately one in 10 Oklahoma children has a parent that will end up serving time in prison or jail.

The state must continue to pursue justice reform measures that emphasize treatment and rehabilitation for non-violent offenders. That is particularly true of youthful offenders who can be set back on the path to becoming law-abiding and productive citizens if given the right support. See our full list of criminal justice reform priorities on the opposite side of this page.



**INSTITUTE
FOR CHILD
ADVOCACY**



Vote YES for Oklahoma's Children

OICA LEGISLATIVE CHECKLIST

We urge every lawmaker to earn as many gold stars as possible for supporting children (bill authors get TWO stars for each measure they sponsor!). Please **VOTE YES** on all the measures below to make sure our children are safe, healthy and thriving. Thank you to all the legislators who authored the bills below!

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

- HB 2281 (O'Donnell/Treat): Modifies and reduces penalties associated with non-violent crimes like unlawful delivery of goods and credit/debit card related theft
- HB 2284 (O'Donnell/Treat): Provides training and legal education for public defenders
- HB 2286 (O'Donnell/Treat): Strengthens and clarifies pardon and parole process
- HB 2290 (Biggs/Treat): Supports drug courts and the goals of treatment, rehabilitation and reform
- SB 229 (Griffin/Lawson): Supports mental health and substance abuse treatment for juveniles and juvenile offenders **(sent to governor for her signature)**
- SB 603 (O'Donnell/Treat): Requires DOC risk assessments include mental health and substance abuse screening
- SB 649 (O'Donnell/Treat): Addresses sentencing requirements regarding drug related crimes
- SB 650 (Shaw/Loring): Allows for faster expungement of non-violent felonies
- SB 689 (O'Donnell/Treat): Allows judges to reduce sentences for non-violent, life-without-parole convicts
- SB 793 (O'Donnell/Treat): Creates the Corrections and Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force to assess justice reform outcomes
- SB 786 (Shaw/Loring): Reduces penalties for some non-violent offenses, following the recommendations of the Governor's Criminal Justice Task Force

CHILD WELLBEING, HEALTH AND SAFETY / FOSTER CARE:

- HB 1127 (Biggs/Griffin): Defines "sexual consent" for juries **(signed into law. Thank you!)**
- HB 1875 (Dunnington/Griffin): Supports partnerships between schools and food banks to fight hunger and support better nutrition for children **(signed into law. Thank you!)**
- SB 34 (David/Biggs): Strengthens tools to prosecute human trafficking **(signed into law. Thank you!)**
- SB 506 (Bice/Pfeiffer): Creates the Healthy Food Financing Revolving Fund to support nutritious food options in underserved/low-income areas **(signed into law. Thank you!)**
- SB 717 (Griffin/Osborn): Expands Child Care Restricted Registry to better protect children in state custody **(sent to governor for her signature)**
- SB 718 (Griffin/Lawson): Clarifies the meaning of a "children's emergency resource center" **(sent to governor for her signature)**
- SB 727 (Griffin/Ownbey): Improves transparency and accountability at DHS Child Welfare Division; reforms system to increase collaboration between guardians and child welfare workers; provides additional support and protections to foster parents
- SB 748 (Griffin/Baker): Creates a pilot program to improve socioeconomic outcomes for children in state custody
- SB 749 (Matthews/Nichols): Creates a program to support community food gardens in low-income areas, supporting better child nutrition **(signed into law. Thank you!)**

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

- HB 2311 (McCall/Schultz): Creates the Agency Spending Review Commission to provide recommendations on government funding and efficiencies