

## HEALTHY CHILDREN

- **Protect Medi-Cal coverage and ensure reforms work for children**, centering family, youth and community experience in health care systems.
- **Emphasize prenatal care and early childhood development as the foundation of life-long health and well-being**, including healthy pregnancy and birth, and address the health-related social needs of birthing people, families and young children ages 0-3.
- **Improve mental health and social-emotional well-being for children, youth and families through community-defined healing** that is liberating, trauma-informed, culturally responsive and gender-affirming.

### OUR VISION

All children, regardless of their race, ethnicity or place of birth, have the resources and opportunities they need to grow up healthy and thrive.

## STRONG, ECONOMICALLY STABLE, CONNECTED FAMILIES

- **Improve access to a stable, affordable and safe place to call home**, including stronger protections for tenants, more investments in deeply affordable housing, and increased power of people most impacted by housing insecurity.
- **Ensure access to affordable broadband, devices and digital literacy to open doors for all children and families** to health care, education, employment, housing and public benefits.
- **Provide financial support to children and families experiencing income instability**, including cash aid, tax credits, trust and savings accounts, and other cash supports.
- **Recognize and support reparations as an opportunity for change**, a fundamental component of addressing racism and its systemic effects, and pursuing equity and healing.

## SAFE & WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

- **Increase community power by bringing health care into the community and the community into health care through a community-based health workforce** including community health workers, promotores, community representatives, peers, doulas and home visitors.
- **Build strong, well-resourced schools and early learning programs that foster a sense of belonging for all children and families, as well as nurture the whole child** with mental health supports, programs grounded in cultivating cultural identity and youth development, and dual immersion/multilingual programs.
- **Create safe spaces for children in immigrant families and their unique experiences**, fostering environments that strengthen enrollment in health, early learning and social services.
- **Transform public systems to eliminate barriers and improve access** to health, food, housing, mental health, income and social supports.

We can create anti-racist policies that protect and improve the health and well-being of children, and center children and families from Indigenous, Black, Latine, Pacific Islander, Asian American and mixed-race communities.

## FEDERAL POLICY

- **Protect Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, and other health and social services programs**, maintaining investments, and defending against policy changes that would reduce access to or enrollment in quality, affordable and culturally competent health coverage and supports.
- **Defend immigrant families and uplift their contributions**, prioritizing care and dignity in federal immigration system reform so that it includes a just and equitable pathway to citizenship, keeps families together, and increases access to services and programs that protect health and well-being.
- **Provide economic support for families** by expanding and making permanent child tax credits and removing any immigration-related restrictions.
- **Maintain investments in supports that address maternal and infant mortality and prioritize healthy early childhood development**, such as community-based doulas; community health workers; public programs like WIC and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV); and the Title V block grant.

California is at the forefront of the changing demographics of the nation, and we champion policies and programs at the state level that will serve as a model for the nation in our collective efforts to support children. By applying a children's lens to issues under consideration by policymakers, we serve as a resource for leaders and partners to strengthen our shared agenda to support the needs of the most marginalized children.

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH DATA & BACKGROUND

The Children's Partnership's **A Child Is A Child** campaign unites a diverse coalition to fight for the rights of every child. The data and research provide a snapshot of the health assets and needs of our children.

This research lays the foundation for a collective equity agenda to transform current programs and policies. We are working toward a California where:

- All children are healthy.
- All families are economically stable and well-connected to resources that support their well-being.
- All communities are well-resourced, safe and welcoming.

### OUR APPROACH

We harness the power of partnership to achieve child health equity in California.

### OUR GOAL

Ensure that all children, no matter their background, have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and lead healthy lives.

Explore the data: [bit.ly/ACHildIsAChild](https://bit.ly/ACHildIsAChild)