



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN
Every Chance for Every Child

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear community,

When I joined the Colorado Children's Campaign as President and CEO at the end of 2023, the organization had a lot to celebrate.

During the 2023 legislative session, the Colorado Children's Campaign helped lay the groundwork for important changes to make our state's approach to funding public schools more fair and effective. We successfully advocated for continuous coverage for the youngest kids enrolled in Medicaid - an important step toward making sure children aren't missing important health care services. We supported new funding for family planning clinics in the state that will help improve outcomes for kids and families. We helped improve access to justice for people facing eviction, knowing that families with very young children are most likely to experience these devastating events.

We also released a *KIDS COUNT in Colorado!* report that featured the most comprehensive set of data on youth mental health we had ever included, including a first-of-its-kind analysis of access to mental health providers and counselors in Colorado schools. We advanced important policy conversations on issues ranging from school safety to quality in early childhood.

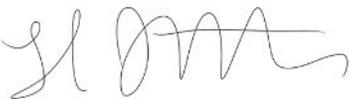
And we connected with our community at some of our favorite events, including our Speak Up for Kids advocacy day and our annual Connection Reception.

The motto of the Colorado Children's Campaign is simple but powerful: *Every Chance for Every Child*. I am proud to lead this team as we build on our history of turning this powerful dream into reality for kids and families through equitable, evidence-based, child-centered policy, research, and advocacy.

Thank you to all our supporters and partners and team members who share this dream - and who help us make it a reality.

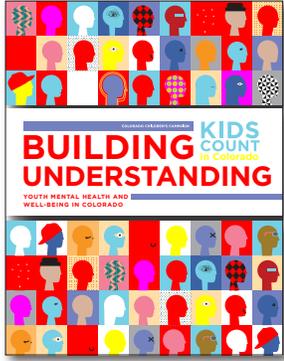
Onward!

Heather Tritten



President and CEO





9,447

Website page views of 2023 *KIDS COUNT in Colorado!* report.



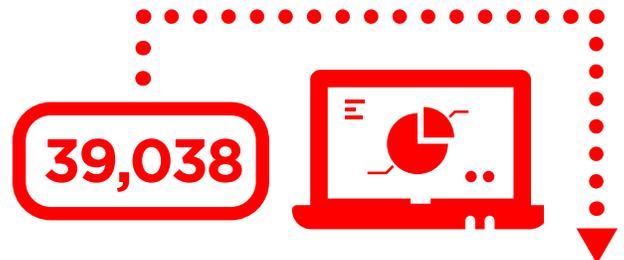
Mentions in media sources across the state.



Times our experts provided testimony or written comments on the well-being of children for committees of the Colorado General Assembly or state regulatory boards.



Bills that affected Colorado children and families tracked during the 2023 session of the Colorado General Assembly.



Visits to Colorado data that we provide to the national KIDS COUNT Data Center.



Coalitions convened, led, or participated in by Colorado Children's Campaign team members.



KIDS COUNT IN COLORADO!



SPOTLIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH



BUILDING UNDERSTANDING
KIDS COUNT In Colorado
YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN COLORADO



The Children's Campaign released the annual *KIDS COUNT in Colorado!* report in August 2023. *Building Understanding: Youth Mental Health and Well-Being in Colorado* brought together data from national, state, and local sources to spotlight trends in youth mental health and access to care. The report also highlighted promising programs and efforts to support youth mental health across the state.

For the first time, the 2023 report included quotes from young people as part of a partnership with the YouthScan Project, a statewide digital initiative that puts youth voices front and center in the decisions that impact their lives.



CPR News



STRESS, SOCIAL MEDIA, PANDEMIC ARE TAKING A HEAVY TOLL ON COLORADO'S KIDS' MENTAL HEALTH, ACCORDING TO ANNUAL REPORT.

SPEAK UP

In 2023, our signature advocacy event, Speak Up for Kids Day, returned to an in-person format for the first time since 2020. The event was hosted at History Colorado Center with support from our partners at Clayton Early Learning. More than 100 attendees learned about key issues affecting Colorado kids, shared stories, and practiced their advocacy skills with legislators.



CONNECTION RECEPTION

September 20, 2023 • 4-6 p.m. • Grand Hyatt Denver - Pinnacle Club

CONNECTION RECEPTION

The Campaign's Connection Reception brings together Coloradans from across sectors and across the state who are invested in the well-being of kids and families. This year, attendees heard from Gov. Jared Polis and celebrated our first-ever Advocate of the Year and Legislator of the Year.



Advocate of the Year

Khatira Amn, Senior Policy Advocate for Early Childhood, for her work advocating for language justice and access in early childhood and in the policymaking process.



Legislator of the Year

Representative Iman Jodeh, House District 41, for her work to support families' economic stability, access to health care, and education.

POLICY ADVANCES:

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



1,200

more Coloradans served by the state's Family Planning Program

\$24M

invested to help low property wealth Colorado school districts

\$24M

in funding retained for Universal Pre-K, pending voter approval

\$28M

to keep more Coloradans, including kids 0-3, enrolled in Medicaid & CHP+

8,000

Colorado families protected from eviction through more accessible hearing options

FAMILY ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

North Star Goal: All families have safe, stable housing and the financial resources they need to support their well-being and achieve economic prosperity.

Priority bills

Remote Access for Eviction Proceedings: **HB23-1186** (Lindsay & Jodeh, Exum & Jaquez Lewis)

Allows all parties in a residential eviction proceeding to choose whether they intend to participate in person or virtually, extending an effective pandemic-era practice.



Multi-Year Continuous Eligibility for Medicaid and CHP+:

(Sirota & Bird/Zenzinger & Kirkmeyer)

Allows the state to provide continuous Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) coverage to children from birth to age 3 and to provide 12 months of coverage for Coloradans leaving state prison.

Access to Reproductive and Preventive Health Services:

(Moreno & Cutter/Michaelson Jenet & Garcia)

Reduces surprise billing, removes patient cost-sharing for reproductive health care services offered to privately insured Coloradans, and codifies coverage of Affordable Care Act preventive services in Colorado.

Family Planning Funding in the Long Bill:

(Zenzinger/Bird)

Increases funding for the Family Planning Program at the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment to serve more people at clinics across the state.



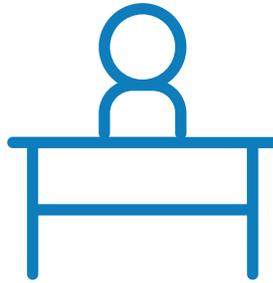
YOUTH SUCCESS

North Star Goal: All youth believe they belong, feel vital to their communities, and have the resources, opportunities, and support they need to thrive in adolescence and beyond.

Priority bills

Public School Finance Act: **SB23-287** (Zenzinger & Lundeen, McLachlan & Kipp)

Creates a task force of school experts to deliver specific recommendations for a modernized, equitable, and student-centered school finance formula by January 2024.



All children have equitable, high-quality early childhood experiences shaped by well-supported families, caregivers, and educators that foster social-emotional development, health and overall well-being.

Priority bills

Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Renewal: (Pugliese & Kipp/Marchman & Rich)

Renews the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit (CCTC) for an additional three years.

Retain Revenue for Universal Preschool: (McCluskie & Sirota/Moreno & Fields)

Refers a question to November 2023 voters about whether to retain excess revenue raised from Proposition EE, a ballot measure Coloradans passed overwhelmingly in 2020.



The West Steps: Season 5

-  Our 2023 legislative session wrap up
-  How is Colorado working to improve school safety?
-  The Braidwood ruling: What does it mean for Colorado?
-  The Children's Campaign's mid-session update
-  The importance of play in early childhood
-  What you need to know about Healthy School Meals for All
-  Now is the time to invest in Colorado's Family Planning Program
-  Keeping Colorado kids covered in 2023 and beyond
-  Access to justice: How we can improve eviction court proceedings in Colorado
-  The Colorado Children's Campaign 2023 legislative preview



THE WEST STEPS



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