



# PROGRESS REPORT

**2021 - 2022**

A Year in Review



**CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**



# A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dr. Stephan Blanford  
Executive Director

When you spend much of your day as I do, thinking, talking, and perhaps even, dreaming about public policy, you get a lot of opportunities to reflect on the legacy you are building for future generations. The decisions and policy solutions that we pursue today will have a meaningful impact in the lives of our youngest Washingtonians, especially Black, Indigenous, and other children of color who are at the center of our work.

Beyond that impact, it is my hope that as Children's Alliance grows in size and influence, the work we do will lead to radical transformation in the policymaking sector. We will continue to unapologetically pursue policy solutions that address the needs of children who are furthest from opportunity and model a new way forward so that our laws help us live up to the promise of a multiracial democracy where every child thrives.

Together, our voices are changing hearts and minds. More of our partners—advocates, service providers, community leaders, funders and legislators—are willing to name racism

as the root cause of the persistent outcome gaps among our kids. This change would have been unimaginable just a few years ago.

The next legislative session will present us with numerous opportunities to advocate for and invest in a better future for every Washingtonian. The need for change is urgent, especially for children and families who are most impacted by racism and poverty. It is also critical for our democracy.

In many ways, the deepening inequality we are all grappling with today is the legacy of justice deferred. When we call on you to take action with us, I urge you to consider the legacy that you want to build for the next generation. I hope you will heed our call and add your voice to the growing momentum for justice. Together, we can create a better shared future where every child has an abundance of opportunities to help them reach their full potential.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Stephan Blanford". The signature is fluid and cursive.



# A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Sarah Alexander  
Board Chair

Next year, 2023, will mark the 40th anniversary of Children's Alliance, making this a particularly good time to look back, and look ahead.

The work we are doing today is a continuation of the work we have been doing since our humble beginnings, yet it has evolved beyond what our founders had imagined back then. Today, Children's Alliance unapologetically centers antiracism in everything that we do, pursuing policy solutions that address the needs of children who are furthest from opportunity because of racism and poverty.

The pandemic presented challenges we hadn't anticipated, including a shift from in-person to online advocacy, as well as economic pressures felt by most non-profit organizations. We took stock, adjusted, and leaned into the opportunities we discovered along the way. Our board, staff and partners turned out to be more resilient than I ever could have imagined and our advocacy for kids barely skipped a beat.

Throughout these challenges, we held to the vision and mission that united us all. Since the founding of Children's Alliance in 1983, we have been guided by a belief that every child deserves the opportunity to develop their vast potential, and our moral obligation, as adults, is to ensure that these opportunities are abundant.

I hope you will celebrate our 40th anniversary with us next year. Take action with our legislators, make a gift in honor of a special child in your life or bring a friend to an online or in-person Children's Alliance event. Please continue to fight with us for a better future for every child in Washington.



# ABOUT US

Children's Alliance is Washington's statewide, nonpartisan child advocacy organization. You can count on Children's Alliance to ask the critical question: "Is it good for kids?" and to fight hard to make sure the answer is YES.

## Mission

Children's Alliance strives to place racial justice at the heart of Washington's laws and budget priorities so that every child can thrive.

## Vision

Our vision is that all of Washington's children will have an abundance of what they need to grow up to be the people they dream of becoming.

## Values

Children's Alliance's work is grounded in the fundamental belief that a spark of genius exists in every child. But for too many of our children, racism and poverty create barriers that prevent them from unlocking their vast potential. In carrying out our mission, Children's Alliance embraces the following values:



### Empowerment

We advocate with, and not for, those who are most impacted by the policy solutions we pursue. We believe our work is most effective when it is built in genuine partnership with people who truly understand what is needed by kids who are furthest from opportunity.



### Equity

We unapologetically pursue policy solutions that address the needs of children who are furthest from opportunity. This is the only approach that will shrink and ultimately eliminate historically persistent outcomes gaps, building a better shared future for all Washingtonians.



### Inclusion

To build a just and inclusive society where every child can thrive, we must uplift the voices of people who have been denied the opportunity to shape the laws and policies that affect us all. We aspire to create and model inclusive coalitions where these voices are welcomed and valued.



### Introspection

We believe that racism and anti-Blackness is deeply embedded in all aspects of our society, and is unconsciously maintained by all of us. To dismantle this pernicious racism within the systems that affect our children's lives so profoundly, we must examine how racism and white supremacy show up within ourselves, our institutions and society. Furthermore, we must develop the courage and leadership skills to dismantle it and model a new way forward.

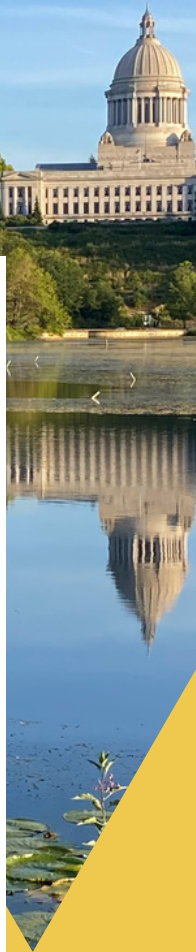
2022

# LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Despite the short length of the 2022 legislative session, Children's Alliance secured significant victories for kids and families. For the second year in a row, advocates from across the state were able to make their voices heard in Olympia by signing in to support or oppose bills and give testimony remotely. We hope that the legislature maintains this practice in the years to come, so that even more Washingtonians can participate in the process.

## Advocacy in Action: What We Did

- We met directly with elected officials, gave testimonials before legislators, and served on task forces in Olympia to push for progressive laws and policies.
- We worked together with partner organizations across the state to research what challenges our children are facing, and what kind of laws and policies they need to improve their lives.
- We analyzed state budgets and laws to make sure that when a new policy is implemented, it's implemented in a way that is fair and equitable to all of Washington's families.
- We brought together parents, grandparents, child advocates, community leaders, and concerned citizens and gave them support and opportunities to speak with their representatives through email, over the phone, or at virtual advocacy events.
- We educated the public about what's going on in state politics and how it will affect children and families – by offering training days, publishing articles in newspapers, or giving data to news sources about what we've learned.
- We led coalitions and convened meetings with other organizations who work with children across the state to present a stronger united voice for kids at the state capitol.
- We centered racial equity in all of our campaigns and worked to bring justice to children who are facing racism in society.



## Early Learning

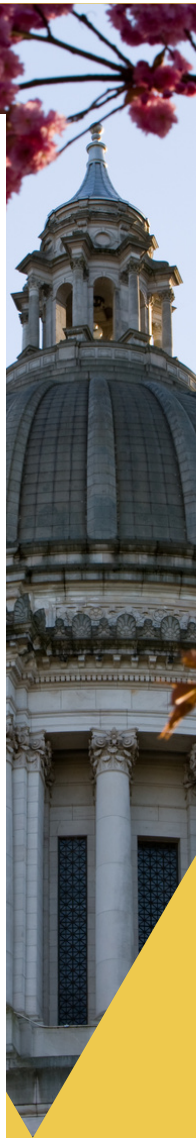
The state legislature championed children and families by passing and funding Senate Bill 5793 to provide stipends for low-income or underrepresented community members of state boards, commissions, councils, committees, and other similar groups. This is a big win to address the equity gap in who has a voice at the table and who gets to shape policies and programs that help Washington families thrive. Lawmakers also enhanced supports for our early learning and child care workforce by funding background checks and fingerprinting processing fees that newly hired child care workers must submit before going to work. This support ensures educators and child care providers are in classrooms and meeting the needs of their communities.

We are incredibly grateful that the legislature added funding for the 2021 Fair Start for Kids Act. This will result in significant expansion for the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, which prepares three and four-year-old children from families furthest from opportunity for success in school, and allocations to support enhanced rates for providers delivering high-quality early learning and child care. Included is funding for vital programs like infant and early mental health consultation and for the Family, Friend, and Neighbor caregiver program statewide. There's also limited expansion for Transitional Kindergarten to help more schools give children almost ready for K-12 a strong start.

## Children's Health

The legislature established birth doulas as a new licensed health profession in Washington state, helping grant Medicaid reimbursement for delivery of babies with the assistance of doulas and addressing racial and income inequality for birthing persons. They also increased access to health care for unaccompanied homeless youth, allowing some of the most vulnerable young people to get life-saving vaccinations and other routine and preventative health care. Furthermore, lawmakers passed House Bill 1878, ensuring that more school districts have the financial support to feed hungry students.

The legislature committed the state to provide continuous Apple Health for Kids coverage for all income-qualified kids under age 6. This is a critical step towards achieving universal coverage for kids in Washington state. Lawmakers committed to raising Medicaid pediatric dental rates, which is a huge step forward for dental access, and raised rates for Access to Baby & Child Dentistry providers by almost 40 percent. These investments show that the legislature takes dental access seriously and paves the way for them to take additional steps to improve oral health, like water fluoridation and the authorization of dental therapists, in the future.



# STRONGER TOGETHER

We can't do this work alone. As well as working with advocates and communities, Children's Alliance convenes and participates in a number of statewide coalitions.



Children's Alliance staffs and convenes the Early Learning Action Alliance, a broad coalition of organizations representing a diverse array of Washington nonprofits, professional associations, businesses, and industries. We are united by the belief that all children in Washington state deserve to have the opportunities and support they need in their first five years of life to be prepared for school and a bright future.

The Arc of King County | Child Care Action Council | Child Care Aware of Washington | Child Care Action Council | Child Care Resources | Child Haven | Children's Alliance | Children's Campaign Fund | Children's Home Society of Washington and Trust Foundation | Children's Therapy Center | Columbia City Consulting | Committee for Children | Community Day Center for Children, Inc | Early Care and Education Consortium | Economic Opportunity Institute | Educare Seattle | First 5 FUNdamentals | Foundation for Tacoma Students | Help Me Grow Pierce County | League of Education Voters | Mission: Readiness | MomsRising | Neighborhood House | Nurse Family Partnership | Partners for Our Children | Project Child Success | Puget Sound Educational Service District | Ready Nation | Save the Children | Save the Children Action Network | School's Out Washington | Sound Child Care Solutions | Southeast Seattle Education Coalition | Start Early | Teach for America - Washington | Tiny Trees Preschool | United Way of King County | United Ways of the Pacific Northwest | Washington Association for the Education of Young Children | Washington Association for Infant Mental Health | Washington Childcare Centers Association | Washington Federation of Independent Schools | Washington Home Visiting Coalition | Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility | Washington State Alliance of YMCAs | Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP | Washington State Budget & Policy Center | Washington State Community Action Partnership | Washington STEM | Washington Communities for Children | Washington State Parent Ambassadors | WithinReach

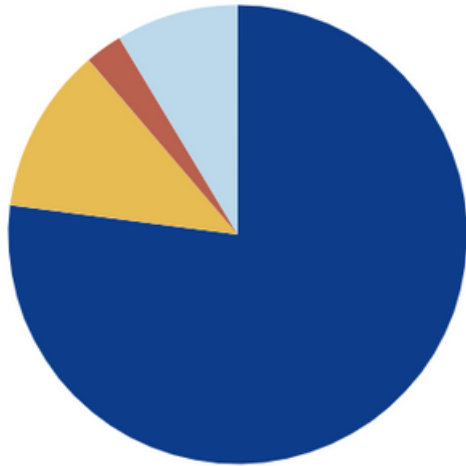


Children's Alliance co-convenes the Washington Dental Access Campaign with our partners at Statewide Poverty Action Network. The coalition includes over 40 organizations, including health care associations, consumer advocates, dentists, dental hygienists, senior groups, Tribal governments and educational institutions, who have come together in support of authorizing dental therapy in Washington.

Alliance for a Healthy Washington | American Friends Service Committee | American Indian Health Commission | Asian Pacific Americans for Civic Empowerment | Center for Multicultural Health | Children's Alliance | Communities of Color Coalition | Eastern WA Voters | Elder Care Alliance | Equity in Education Coalition | Faith Action Network | Health Coalition for Children and Youth | Health Care is a Human Right WA | Healthy King County Coalition | League of Women Voters | LGBTQ Allyship | MomsRising | National Association of Social Workers—Washington | North Sound ACH | Northwest Harvest | Northwest Health Law Advocates | Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board | Olympic Community of Health | OneAmerica | Para Los Niños | Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii | Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action | Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project | Retired Public Employees Council | School Nurse Organization of Washington | Sea Mar Community Health Centers | Seattle Central College | Seattle Indian Health Board | Seattle & King County Public Health | Seattle NAACP | SEIU Healthcare 775NW | SEIU Healthcare 1199NW | SEIU Local 6 | Solid Ground | Statewide Poverty Action Network | SW Washington Communities United for Change | UFCW Local 21 | Washington Community Action Network | Washington Dental Hygienists' Association | Washington Low Income Housing Alliance | Washington Rural Health Association | Washington State Budget & Policy Center | Washington State Hospital Association | Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO | Washington State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program | Washington State Public Health Association | Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby | YWCA Clark County

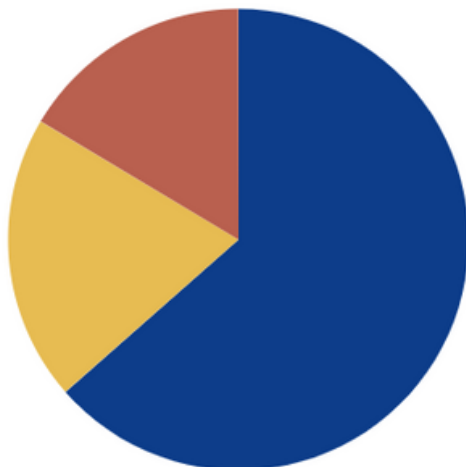
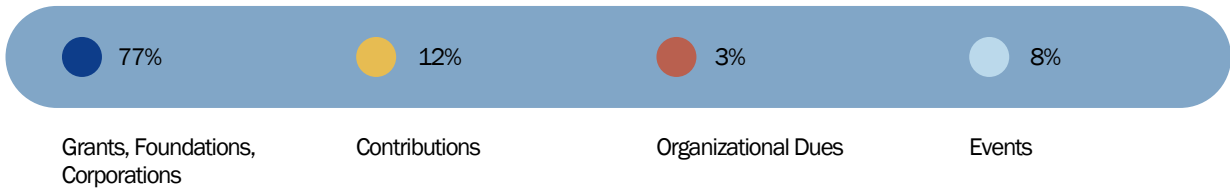
# FINANCIALS

For Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022)



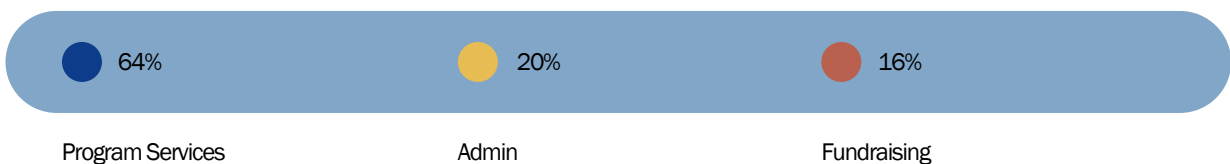
**Income:**

**\$1,342,605\***



**Expenses:**

**\$1,099,177\***



\*Unaudited



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our supporters make it possible for us to advocate for policies that advance equity, dismantle racism, and ensure that all kids in Washington can grow up healthy, safe and well-prepared for school and life. Thank you to the following for their investment in our mission from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. If you have a correction, please contact us at (206) 324-0340 or [funddevelopment@childrensalliance.org](mailto:funddevelopment@childrensalliance.org).

## Institutional Supporters & Organizational Members

Alliance For Early Success | Amara | AmazonSmile Foundation | American Federation of Teachers Washington | Amerigroup Washington | Arcora Foundation | Asian Counseling and Referral Service | Ben Holt Industries, Inc. | Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | Boys & Girls Club of King County | Brighton Jones | CareQuest Institute for Oral Health | Casey Family Programs | Child Care Aware | Child Care Resources | Children's Home Society of Washington | Cocoon House | College Spark | Community Catalyst | Denise Louie Education Center | Economic Opportunity Institute | EPIC | Food Lifeline | Group Health Foundation | Harborview Abuse and Trauma Center | Hutton Settlement | Inspire Development Centers | Kaiser Permanente | Kent Youth & Family Services | Launch | Mary Bridge Children's Hospital - MultiCare Health System | Microsoft | Neighborhood House | Network for Good | Nutrition First | NW Children's Foundation | OneAmerica | Oracle | ORS Impact | Otoupal Generational Wealth Management - DA Davidson | Parent Trust for Washington Children | Partnership for America's Children | Satterberg Foundation | Save the Children Action Network | School's Out Washington | Sea Mar Community Health Centers | Social Venture Partners | Solid Ground Washington | Sound Child Care | Southeast Seattle Education Coalition | The Boeing Company | Treehouse | UFCW 3000 | United Way of King County | University Christian Church Legacy Foundation | Washington Association for Community Health | Washington Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics | Washington Federation of State Employees | Washington School Based Health Alliance | Washington State Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics | Washington State Dental Hygienists' Association | Washington State Labor Council AFL-CIO

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# OUR NEW HOME

After nearly three years of working remotely, we are returning to a brand-new office in the McKinstry Innovation Center. The office is located in the Georgetown neighborhood of Seattle and on the sacred ancestral land of the Suquamish, Stillaguamish, Duwamish, and Muckleshoot tribes. Our new office is equipped with tools and resources to foster connection and strengthen collaboration. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.



# OUR TEAM

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Heather Gingerich

Trevor Greene

Bruce Lamb

Sheely Mauck

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Sherri Wolson

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Cassidy Christopher, Health Policy Manager

Kaitie Dong, Policy Manager

Hana Gregory, ELAA Director

Adam Hyla E. Holdorf, Deputy Director

De Angelo Jones, Finance Director

Charlotte Linton, Communications Manager

Christine Loreda, Donor Relations Director

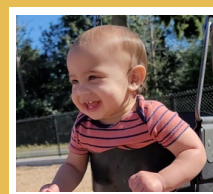
Gillian Murphy, Administrative Manager

Megan Pirie, Mobilization Manager

Dan Rogland, Donor Relations Associate

## Production Babies

This year we were excited to welcome two new members of the Children's Alliance family: Jalen and Rosamund.





# CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Children's Alliance will celebrate 40 years of service to Washington's children and families in 2023. We hope you can join us in commemorating this special milestone at our annual Voices for Children event in June of next year.



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