



2022 Legislative Agenda

Approved by the Children's Home Society of Florida's Board of Directors on September 10, 2021

The Children's Home Society of Florida Board of Directors is proud of the great work achieved during the unprecedented 2021 Session. The outstanding efforts of our local and state leaders, advocates, team members and volunteers is to be commended. These efforts provided helpful insights into necessary policy changes and support for the continuation of successful and effective programs serving Florida's children and families. The Board remains committed to ensuring our children are prioritized while striving for quality and excellence in all we do.



We offer the following legislative priorities for the 2022 Legislature to consider:

Expand a Proven Model to Success: Community Partnership Schools

Community Partnership Schools eliminate barriers to learning that can prevent many children from reaching their full potential: poverty, hunger, safe housing, and unmet health and mental health needs. Community Partnership Schools address these issues and create greater access to supports for students and their families long-term, which can positively impact their futures.

CHS requests continued funding for existing schools and additional funding to expand the model throughout Florida.



Realign Florida's Child Welfare System: Improve Outcomes for Children

Over the past two decades, the child welfare system has evolved; we have an opportunity to refocus the model to better serve Florida's children and families.

CHS requests the following changes to realign the system and help more children find permanency in safe, loving homes and to ensure providers have the supports necessary to fulfill their missions:

- To successfully meet children's complex needs, adopt a long-term priority to dedicate a greater allocation of funds to front-line services.
- Appropriate additional core funds to case management, which will drive down caseloads equitably and improve retention, which has been proven to correlate with improved outcomes for children.
- Modify the child welfare statute to require ALL parties involved to be held liable for their own actions or omissions, and prohibit any contract from requiring such indemnification to other parties. Current contract practice is shifting liability risk further down the chain, from state agency to CBC lead agency to providers. Without legislative action prohibiting this practice, it can have a negative impact to the children we serve and threaten provider sustainability.