



**Children's Home Society  
of Florida**

# **2024 LEGISLATIVE IMPACT REPORT**

**#CHSADVOCACY**



## **CHS Advocates Making an IMPACT**

Big shoutout to all of YOU - CHS State and Regional Board Members, Team Members, Advocates, and our CHS Lobbyist Team for your incredible adaptability and effective use of diverse advocacy strategies throughout the 2024 Legislative Session.

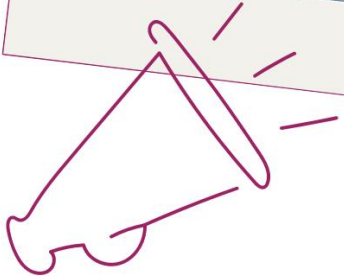
Your unwavering commitment and engagement with legislators played a pivotal role in our achievements this Legislative Session. We express our heartfelt gratitude and eagerly anticipate your ongoing advocacy efforts in the times ahead.

For copies of this Report, legislative priorities and advocacy information please see the Advocacy Page of the CHS website at [www.chsfl.org/advocate](http://www.chsfl.org/advocate).

If you have any questions regarding this Report please contact Tobey Gable, Senior Director of Advocacy & Legislative Affairs, at 850.273.1855 or [Tobey.Gable@chsfl.org](mailto:Tobey.Gable@chsfl.org)



# 2024 Legislative Session



# 2024 Senate Page Program

CHS has collaborated with the Florida Senate for over 15 years to bring over 120 CHS Youth from all over the state to experience one week in Tallahassee serving as a Senate Page. A total of 9 CHS Youth from across the state participated during the 2024 Legislative Session.

This would not be such a successful program without our Host Families. This year we had 8 host families that opened their home, adding up to a total of 16 host families over the history of the program.

Recently, we celebrated the outstanding efforts and commitments of our host families with our first host family appreciation luncheon!





# 2024 Legislative & Advocacy Statistics

**1902**

**TOTAL BILLS FILED**

**325**

**TOTAL BILLS  
PASSED**

**17.1%**

**SUCCESS RATE OF  
BILLS FILED**

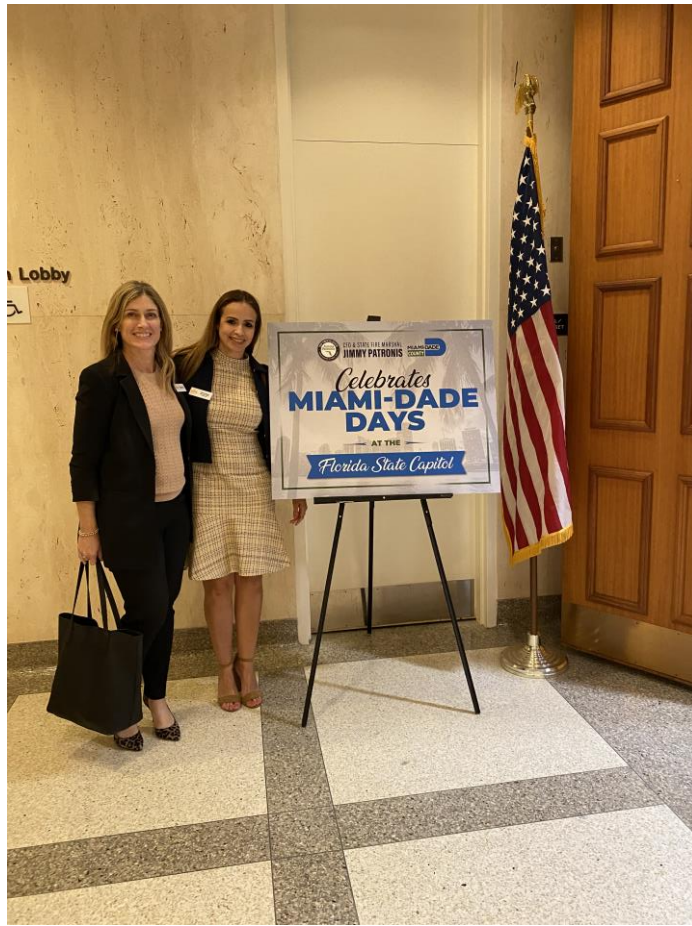
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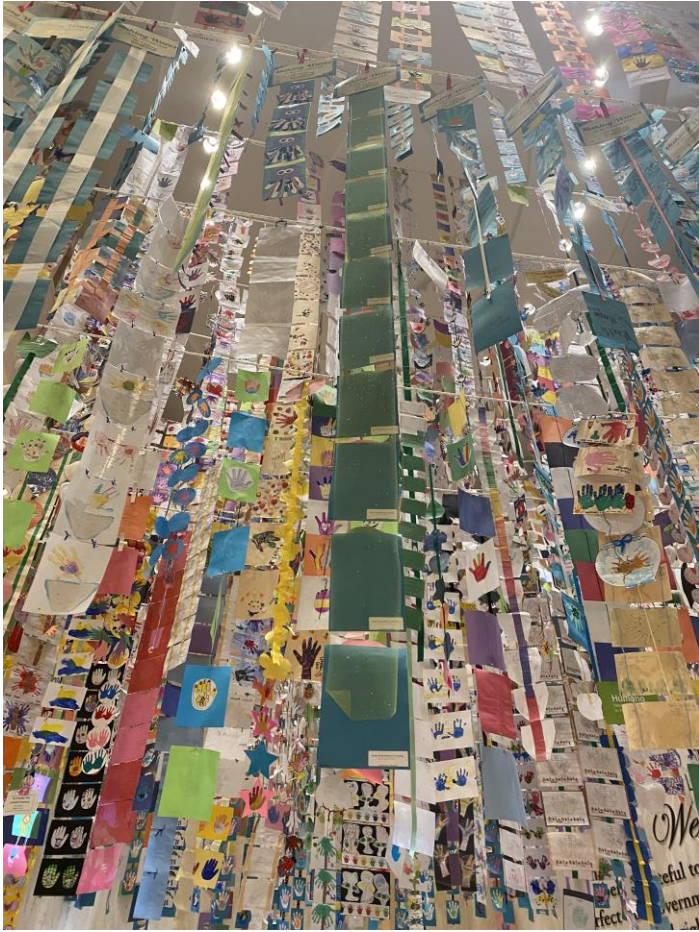
**203**

**ADVOCACY  
MESSAGES SENT TO  
LEGISLATORS**

**77**

**PEOPLE UTILIZED THE  
CHS ADVOCACY  
ACTION CENTER**





Children's Home Society of Florida

2024 Legislative IMPACT Report

# 2024 Session – Bills That Passed

*Excerpts from the 2024 House/Senate Session Summaries*

## **HB 49 — Employment and Curfew of Minors**

by Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee and Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee and Chaney (CO-SPONSORS) Canady; Giallombardo; Leek; Maggard; McClain; Roach; Trabulsy

The bill makes the following changes to hours and timeframes relating to the employment of minors:

- Clarifies that minors 15 years old or younger may not work more than 15 hours in any one week, when school is in session.
- Provides that minors 16 and 17 years old:
  - May only work between 6:30 a.m. and 11 p.m., when school is scheduled the following day.
  - May not work for more than 8 hours in any one day when school is scheduled the following day, except when the day of work is on a holiday or Sunday.
  - May work for more than 30 hours per week when the minor's parent or custodian, or the school superintendent or his or her designee, waives the limitation on a form prescribed by DBPR and provided to the minor's employer.
- Provides that minors 15 years of age or younger, instead of 17 years of age or younger, may not work more than:
  - 6 consecutive days in any one week.
  - 4 hours continuously without an interval of at least 30 minutes for a meal period.
- Provides that minors 16 and 17 years of age who work for 8 hours or more in any one day may not work for more than 4 hours continuously without an interval of at least 30 minutes for a meal period.
- Provides that the work restrictions do not apply to:
  - Minors enrolled in an educational institution who qualify on a hardship basis.
  - Minors 16 and 17 years old who are in a home education program, or are enrolled in an approved virtual instruction program in which the minor is separated from the teacher by time only.
  - Minors in domestic service in private homes or employed by their parents.
- Clarifies that the DBPR is authorized to grant a waiver of these restrictions.
- Clarifies that an employer who requires, schedules, or otherwise causes a minor to be employed, permitted, or suffered to work in violation of these provisions commits a violation of the law, punishable as provided in s. 450.141, F.S.

Chamber Votes:

House 76 YEAS/33 NAYS

Senate 27 YEAS/11 NAYS

The bill was approved by the Governor on March 22, 2024, ch. 2024-25, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2024.



## HB 305 – Offenses Involving Children

By Criminal Justice Subcommittee and Baker (CO-SPONSORS) Basabe; Bell; Chamberlin; Jacques; López, J.; McClain; Trabulsy; Tuck

The bill amends s. 90.803(23), F.S., to increase the physical, mental, emotional, or developmental age of a child to which the hearsay exception applies from 16 years of age or less to 17 years of age or less.

The bill amends s. 775.21, F.S., to add s. 787.06(3)(f) and (g), F.S., relating to human trafficking for commercial sexual activity where the victim is a minor, to the list of offenses for which a single conviction requires an offender to be designated as a sexual predator.

The bill may increase the number of offenders who are designated as a sexual predator and as such, may increase the workload of sheriff offices tasked with monitoring and enforcing sexual offender and sexual predator reporting requirements. However, any additional costs should be absorbed within existing resources.

Chamber Votes:

House 115 YEAS/0 NAYS

Senate 38 YEAS/0 NAYS

The bill was approved by the Governor on April 10, 2024, ch. 2024-71, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2024.

## SB 564 – Young Adult Aftercare Services

by Fiscal Policy and Children, Families, and Elder Affairs and Garcia (CO-SPONSORS) Hooper; Book; Rouson

The bill expands the eligibility for receiving Aftercare services subject to available funding. If a young adult between the ages of 18 and 22 receives Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS), requires temporary financial assistance for emergency situations, and was placed in out-of-home care for at least six months after turning 14 years of age and did not achieve reunification with his or her parent or guardian, they may be eligible for receiving Aftercare services upon available funding. This will allow more young adults to access needed services.

The bill was approved by the Governor on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, CH. 2024-112, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2024.

Chamber Votes:

House 113 YEAS/0 NAYS

Senate 32 YEAS/0 NAYS

## CS/CS/HB 975 – Background Screening Requirements for Health Care Practitioners

by Health & Human Services Committee and Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee and Trabulsy and Bell and Campbell (CO-SPONSORS) Basabe; Cassel; Eskamani; Garcia; Joseph; López, J.; Lopez, V.; Salzman; Tant

The bill adds additional offenses to the list of disqualifying offenses for Level 2 background screening, and revises the eligibility criteria for exemptions from disqualification. The bill extends

the deadline for independent youth athletic team coaches to undergo a Level 2 background screening from July 1, 2024, to January 1, 2025.

Current law requires only specified health care professions to undergo background screening as a requirement for initial licensure; the majority of health care professions licensed by the Department of Health (DOH) are not subject to background screening. The bill revises background screening requirements to apply to the majority of health care professionals licensed by DOH, and requires those licensed prior to July 1, 2025, to comply at their next licensure renewal. Continuums of Care (CoCs) coordinate local efforts to prevent and end homelessness at the local level. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) requires employees of CoCs and their subcontractors to undergo Level 2 background screening. However, individuals with lived experience of homelessness, who can be helpful in delivering homelessness services, may have criminal histories that prevent passing a background screening. The bill establishes a pathway by which a person who has lived experience with homelessness may qualify for a modified background screening process in order to be employed by certain homeless service providers.

The bill appropriates \$250,000 to DOH to implement the provisions of the bill.

Chamber Votes:

House 109 YEAS/0 NAYS

Senate 40 YEAS/0 NAYS

As of May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Governor has not signed the bill.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024; except for the provisions relating to the background screening of licensed health care professionals which is effective July 1, 2025.

### **CS/CS/CS/HB 1083 – Permanency for Children**

by Health & Human Services Committee and Appropriations Committee and Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee and Trabulsy and Abbott (CO-SPONSORS) Basabe; Canady; Chaney; López, J.; Mooney

The bill makes several changes to advance permanency by creating a legal process for orphaned children, requiring that a child knows the successor guardian, providing flexibility for service of process in termination of parental rights advisory hearings, ensuring safe and appropriate placements, and restricting access to the statewide adoption exchange.

The bill shifts judicial review of DCF's decision on an adoption application from a separate administrative process to the dependency court. The bill requires a presiding judge to issue a court order to authorize the payment of certain adoption fees, costs, and expenses that exceed certain statutory threshold amounts, including an explanation of why the payments are reasonable. The bill prohibits the placement of adoption-related paid advertisements by non-adoption entities through certain mediums in Florida if the advertisements lack the prerequisite licensing information. The bill also expands eligibility for adoption incentive awards and increases the award amounts.

The bill identifies DCF as the state agency responsible for conducting fingerprint-based background checks of out-of-home care household members and certain visitors to the home when DCF arranges an emergency placement in out-of-home care for a child.

The bill expands the criteria for Post-Secondary Education and Support (PESS) and Extended Guardianship and Adoption Assistance Programs to allow more young adults aged 18 to 23 who have been in the dependency system to receive benefits as they transition to independence.

Chamber Votes:

House 110 YEAS/0 NAYS

Senate 38 YEAS/0 NAYS

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 10, 2024, ch. 2024-177, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2024.

### **CS/HB 1361 - Education**

by Education & Employment Committee and Temple (CO-SPONSORS) Barnaby; Botana; Canady; Daniels; Massullo; Mooney; Trabulsy; Tuck

The bill expands the eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship to include students enrolled in a Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program, who exhibit substantial deficiencies in early literacy or mathematics skills based upon the results of the most recent progress monitoring assessment. The bill requires school districts and VPK program providers to notify parents of eligible students of the process to request and receive a scholarship, when providing results from the administration of each progress monitoring assessment. In addition, the bill expands the credentials for eligible part-time tutors and requires the Department of Education to release student scholarship funds to the program administrator within 45 days of eligibility determination.

To increase program efficiencies, the bill repeals individualized reimbursements and requires parents, of scholarship eligible students, to utilize the administrator's system, if available, to make direct purchases of qualifying program expenditures.

The bill designates the University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning (Center) as the administrator for the New Worlds Reading Initiative, codifies the Center into law, and establishes duties for the Center.

The bill renames the "micro-credential program" to the "New Worlds micro-credential program."

The bill expands existing requirements to provide results from the first two administrations of the progress monitoring to a student's teacher and parents, by also requiring results be delivered to prekindergarten student instructors.

The bill establishes the New Worlds Tutoring Program, administered by the Center, to support school districts and schools in improving kindergarten through grade 5 student achievement in reading and mathematics. In addition, the Center may award grants to provide stipends for in-person tutoring during the school day, before and after school, or during a summer program.

To expand the use of artificial intelligence the bill allows the Center to collaborate with school districts and award grants to eligible school districts. These funds may be used for subscription fees and professional learning to support and accelerate learning for students in grades 6 through 12. The bill appropriates \$2 million in recurring funds from the General Revenue Funds to the Center for the grant program.

Chamber Votes:

House 113 YEAS/0 NAYS

Senate 38 YEAS/0 NAYS

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 9, 2024, ch. 2024-162, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2024

## **SB 2518 – Health and Human Services**

by Appropriations

The bill conforms law to the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act.

The bill modifies the maximum Challenge Grant award amount that the State Office of Homelessness may provide to a continuum of care lead agency. A lead agency may award a grant up to \$1,200,000 to fund the housing and service needs identified in a lead agency's homelessness assistance continuum of care plan.

The bill allows each area agency on aging (AAA) to carry forward unexpended state funds from one fiscal year to the next, up to a cumulative amount not exceeding 10 percent of the AAA's planning and services areas allocation for the Community Care for the Elderly program. Carry forward may not be used to increase recurring future obligations, or for any type of program or service that is not authorized in the current existing contracts. Each AAA must report expenditures using carry forward funds separately to the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA). Unexpended funds remaining at the end of a contract period must be returned to the department unless the contract is renewed or re-awarded through a new procurement with the same AAA.

The bill provides that implementation of chapter 2023-277, Laws of Florida, related to Florida Kidcare Program Eligibility is contingent upon the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval through a Medicaid waiver or state plan amendment. This provision is effective upon becoming law.

The bill provides the Department of Health (DOH) with the authority to deposit certain healthcare practitioner loan repayment program funds into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund.

Chamber Votes:

House 109 YEAS/0 NAYS

Senate 39 YEAS/0 NAYS

As of May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Governor has not signed the bill. Subject to the Governor's veto powers and except as otherwise expressly provided, the bill has an effective date of July 1, 2024

## SB 7004 - Education

by Fiscal Policy and Education Pre-K -12 (CO-SPONSORS) Osgood; Simon

CS/SB 7004 builds on the deregulation of public schools' provisions in House Bill 1 (Ch. 2023- 16, Laws of Fla.) and provides to school districts additional authority related to prekindergarten programs, retention and graduation, assessments, school improvement, instructional materials, and reporting. Specifically, the bill modifies the following:

Relating to the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program, the bill:

- Removes the requirement that each public school district offer the summer VPK program, modifies summer VPK funding and program attendance systems, and provides access to school district summer reading camps.
- Removes early learning coalition monitoring of public school VPK programs.

Relating to assessments, the bill:

- Creates an additional good cause exemption from third-grade retention, effective upon becoming law, to specify that a parent may determine promotion to grade 4 is in the best interest of the student.
- Reduces the frequency of assessments in the summer VPK program.
- Provides that upon becoming law, students will not be required to pass the Algebra 1 end-of-course assessment and grade 10 English Language Arts assessment to earn a standard high school diploma.
- Provides that upon becoming law, a student's performance on the statewide, standardized grade 10 ELA assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade.
- Eliminates school district requirements relating to the uniform assessment calendar, and that school districts submit the district-wide assessment calendar to the Department of Education.
- Provides that the first two administrations of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system are not subject to the requirements for an extraordinary exemption.
- Removes the requirement for administration of the common assessment for students in Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) prevention, residential, or day treatment programs.

Relating to public school accountability and improvement, the bill:

- Specifies that changes made by the State Board of Education (SBE) to the school grades model or scale may not go into effect until the following school year.
- Extends from 2 to 4 years the time for a school district to implement a district managed turnaround plan. The bill provides a school exits district-managed turnaround with two consecutive grades of "C," or a grade of "A" or "B." o Expands school turnaround options to include conversion to a community partnership school. o Prohibits the use of the value-added model (VAM) as the sole determinate in recruiting instructional personnel.
- Removes the requirement that district school boards take action on a provider contract for DJJ educational programs that continue to underperform within six months after a monitoring plan.

Relating to instructional materials, the bill:

- Requires the Commissioner of Education, beginning in the 2026 adoption cycle, to publish the list of adopted instructional materials not later than July 31 of the year preceding the beginning of the adoption period.
- Provides districts school boards additional authority in the provision of adequate instructional materials and major tools of instruction for students in core subject areas.

- Modifies dates for superintendent reporting regarding requisitioned instructional materials and alignment of materials to state standards.
- Provides principals with the authority to determine collection of funds for lost or damaged instructional materials.

Regarding district programs, the bill:

- Changes district school board capacity determinations for controlled open enrollment and from every 12 weeks to twice annually.
- Authorizes school district virtual instruction programs to provide equipment to all students, regardless of income status.
- Repeals the Competency-Based Pilot Program and the single-gender programs requirements.

The bill also repeals reporting relating to fine arts, charter technical career centers, middle grades career courses, academically high performing school districts, Committee of Practitioners under the No Child Left Behind Act, and implementation of school improvement and accountability.

Chamber Votes:

House 117 YEAS/0 NAYS

Senate 38 YEAS/0 NAYS

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 9, 2024, ch. 2024-160, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2024

## **SB 7018 – Health Care Innovation**

by Health Policy (CO-SPONSORS) Harrell

The bill creates the Health Care Innovation Council, a 15-member council within the Department of Health (DOH) to facilitate public meetings across the state to lead discussions with innovators, developers, and implementers of technologies, workforce pathways, service delivery models, or other solutions. Based on the public input and information gathered at public meetings, the bill requires the council to create best practice recommendations and focus areas for the advancement of the delivery of health care in Florida, with an emphasis on:

- Increasing efficiency in the delivery of health care;
- Reducing strain on the health care workforce;
- Increasing public access to health care;
- Improving patient outcomes;
- Reducing unnecessary emergency department visits; and
- Reducing costs for patients and the state without reducing the quality of patient care.

The bill creates a revolving loan program within the DOH to provide low-interest loans to applicants to implement one or more innovative technologies, workforce pathways, or service delivery models in order to:

- Fill a demonstrated need;
- Obtain or upgrade necessary equipment, hardware, and materials;
- Adopt new technologies or systems; or

- A combination thereof to improve the quality and delivery of health care in measureable and sustainable ways that will lower costs and allow that value to be passed onto health care consumer.

The council will review loan applications and submit to the DOH a prioritized list of proposals recommended for funding. Loan recipients enter into agreements with the DOH for loans of up to 10-year terms for up to 50 percent of the proposal costs, or up to 80 percent of the costs for an applicant that is located in a rural or medically underserved area and is either a rural hospital or a nonprofit entity that accepts Medicaid patients. The bill requires both the council and the DOH to publicly report certain information related to the activities required under the bill and requires the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to evaluate specified aspects of the revolving loan program every five years.

The bill makes the following appropriations:

- For State Fiscal Year 2023-2024, appropriates \$250,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for the DOH to support the council.
- For State Fiscal Year 2024-2025, appropriates \$1 million in recurring General Revenue funds for the DOH to support the council.
- For State Fiscal Years 2024-2025 through 2034-2035: o Requires the Chief Financial Officer by August 1 each year to transfer \$75 million from the General Revenue Fund to the Grants and Donations Trust Fund in the DOH.
- Appropriates \$75 million in nonrecurring funds from the Grants and Donations Trust Fund each year for the DOH to make loans under the revolving loan program. The DOH may use up to three percent of the funds for administration.

Chamber Votes:

House 117 YEAS/0 NAYS

Senate 39 YEAS/0 NAYS

The bill was approved by the Governor on March 21, 2024, ch. 2024-16, L.O.F., and will become effective upon becoming a law.

## HB 7073 - Taxation

by Appropriations Committee and Ways & Means Committee and McClain (CO-SPONSORS) Botana; Fabricio; Mooney; Roth; Trabulsy; Tramont; Truenow

The bill provides for the following tax-related provisions designed to benefit both families and businesses: For sales taxes, the bill:

- creates a 14-day “back-to-school” tax holiday for certain clothing and school supplies;
- two 14-day “disaster preparedness” holidays for specified disaster preparedness supplies;
- a “Freedom Month” tax holiday for specified recreational items and activities;
- and a seven-day “Tool Time” tax holiday for certain tools;
- expands the ability of a leasing company to pay tax up front on certain motor vehicle purchases;
- allows Duval County to levy an indigent care sales surtax if approved by voters;

- and provides how a discretionary sales surtax may be temporarily suspended when it is found to be invalid. For corporate income tax,

The bill also:

- adopts the Internal Revenue Code in effect on January 1, 2024, to conform with federal provisions;
- creates a temporary corporate income tax credit for businesses that hire persons with disabilities;
- and makes changes to the existing tax credit for certain railroad expenditures. For property taxes
- expands the ad valorem tax benefits for renewable energy source devices to include certain facilities;
- clarifies when a certain type of construction work in progress is deemed substantially completed; extends the time in which a homestead owner has to start the repair of a damaged homestead to keep the homestead exemption;
- provides when property owners must pay certain back taxes;
- provides an appropriation to offset ad valorem revenue losses experienced by fiscally constrained counties that refunded certain property taxes;
- and makes various revisions to relating to affordable housing property tax exemptions.
- creates insurance premium deductions for residential and flood policies and creates a corresponding insurance premium tax credit for insurers;
- provides automatic filing extensions for sales tax dealers and corporate income taxpayers in certain emergencies; reduces various natural gas fuel tax rates by half for 2026;
- increases the annual cap of the Strong Families Tax Credit Program to \$40 million and revises criteria for a qualifying charitable organization;
- allows businesses to take a credit against various types of tax liabilities for expenses incurred relating to employee childcare; ‘
- provides a \$30 million distribution from beverage tax collections to specified medical research facilities;
- limits documentary stamp tax assessments for reverse mortgages;
- temporarily exempts from the documentary stamp tax certain written obligations given by a customer to an alarm system contractor;
- increases the percentage of revenue collected from the Sales Tax Collection Enforcement Diversion Program that goes to the James Patrick Personal Attendant Services Program (JP-PAS);
- makes permanent a yearly distribution of \$27.5 million to promote the breeding and racing of horses in Florida;
- 

Chamber Votes:

House 110 YEAS/0 NAYS

Senate 38 YEAS/0 NAYS

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 7, 2024, ch. 2024-158, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2024, except as otherwise provided.

### **HB 7089 – Transparency in Health and Human Services**

by Health & Human Services Committee and Grant (CO-SPONSORS) Beltran; Botana; López, J.; Mooney; Plasencia; Trabulsy



The bill establishes standards for medical billing and health care price transparency, and regulates contractual relationships between the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and community-based child welfare lead agencies (CBCs). The bill requires hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) to publish the costs of at least 300 shoppable services or provide an internet-based tool which meets federal standards. The bill defers compliance for ASCs to January 1, 2026 for this provision.

The bill requires hospitals and ASCs to establish an internal grievance process for patient billing disputes. Hospitals and ASCs must disclose when an insured patient's cost-sharing amount exceeds a non-insured person's cash price or pay a maximum fine of \$500 per incident.

The bill requires hospitals and ASCs to provide each patient with an estimate, and requires health plans to provide an advanced explanation of benefits on certain time lines. The bill requires health plans to count shared savings incentives as medical expenses for rate development and filing purposes.

The bill prohibits hospitals and ASCs from filing an extraordinary collection action for medical debt. The bill establishes a new three-year statute of limitation period for medical debt collections which begins on the date the hospital or ASC refers the medical debt to a third party.

The bill exempts up to \$10,000 of a debtor's property from attachment, garnishment, or other legal action by a hospital or ASC to recover a medical debt.

The bill also prohibits a hospital or ASC from engaging in extraordinary action to collect a medical debt while a patient's eligibility for, enrollment in, or grievance about other coverages are pending.

The bill reforms the contractual rights and obligations between DCF and CBCs. It establishes related party requirements to screen conflicts of interests before a CBC subcontracts or transacts with related parties and subjects a CBC to a systematic approval process before DCF authorizes a CBC to exceed the direct services threshold limitation.

The bill creates penalties and contractual remedies to address violations of procurement law, breach of contract, or deficient performance of contract.

The bill charges DCF to develop a new CBC funding methodology for the allocation of core service funds in collaboration with the CBCs and other child welfare service providers. DCF must submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2024, documenting the proposed funding methodology. In addition, the bill establishes a DCF working group to study, evaluate, and offer recommendations relating to contractual and funding matters in the child welfare system.

#### Chamber Votes:

House 111 YEAS/0 NAYS

Senate 37 YEAS/0 NAYS

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 10, 2024, ch. 2024-183, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2024; except for the provisions related to good faith estimates and advanced explanations of benefits which are effective and contingent upon certain federal action.

# FY 2024-2025 Budget Highlights

Issue	Final Budget Amount
<b>CHS Legislative Priorities</b>	
Community School Grants (aka Community Partnership School)	\$20.1M
Healthy Families Florida Additional Funds	\$2M
<b>Other Important Programs/Issues</b>	
Children’s Advocacy Centers Increase & VOCA Gap Funding	\$9.8M
CINS/FINS Increase	\$6.2M
Independent Living Expansion (tied to legislation proposing statute changes)	\$8.1M
Adoption Incentive Benefits	\$7.3M

# FY 2024-2025

## Proviso Language & Back of the Bill

### 162- SPECIAL CATEGORIES

GRANTS AND AIDES – COMMUNITY SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM  
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND..... 20,116,736

From the funds provided in Specific Appropriation 162, a maximum of \$2,800,000 may be used by the University of Central Florida Center for Community Schools to administer the Community School Grant Program (CSGP) pursuant to section 1003.64, Florida Statutes. These funds are for costs solely associated with the center to serve as statewide coordinating center to provide technical assistance, certification, assessment and evaluation, and grant administration in the establishment and support of community schools in Florida. In addition, a maximum of \$750,000 may be used for data and reporting management technologies, evaluations, and statewide sustainability convenings. The remaining funds are provided for CSGP implementation and planning grants pursuant section 1003.64, Florida Statutes. Indirect costs are unallowable, but up to ten percent of administrative costs may be used for direct administrative support.

### 330 SPECIAL CATEGORIES GRANTS AND AIDES – COMMUNITY BASED CARE FUNDS FOR PROVIDERS OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND..... 669,141,154  
FROM CHILD WELFARE TRAINING TRUST FUND..... 1,875,853  
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND..... 274,427,869  
FROM WELFARE TRANSITION TRUST FUND..... 45,977,067  
FROM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND..... 8,979,209  
FROM SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT TRUST FUND..... 41,078,586

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 330, core services funds are allocated to the following community-based care lead agencies pursuant to section 409.991, Florida Statutes. The allocations below are subject to the competitive review process.

Big Bend CBC (Northwest Florida Health Network)-East..... 35,664,770  
Big Bend CBC (Northwest Florida Health Network)-West..... 55,190,959  
ChildNet (Broward)..... 61,075,051  
ChildNet (Palm Beach)..... 38,309,416  
Children’s Network of Hillsborough..... 75,618,236  
Children’s Network of Southwest Florida..... 53,975,790  
Citrus Family Care Network..... 76,560,755  
Community-Based Care of Brevard (Brevard Family Partnerships)..... 29,408,457  
Communities Connected for Kids..... 24,428,710  
Community Partnership for Children..... 43,522,159  
Embrace Families (or designated lead agency)..... 61,131,448  
Family Support Services of North Florida..... 49,260,445  
Family Support Services of Suncoast..... 87,745,927  
Heartland for Children..... 46,910,312  
Kids Central..... 55,101,217  
Kids First of Florida..... 12,548,710  
Partnership for Strong Families..... 31,518,825  
Safe Children Coalition..... 35,001,619  
St Johns Board of County Commissioners (Family Integrity Program)..... 7,699,906

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 330, \$4,371,313 from the General Revenue Fund shall continue to be provided to the community-based care lead agency that serves the Sixth Judicial Circuit and \$3,863,739 from the General Revenue Fund shall continue to be provided to the community-based care lead agency that serves the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit to improve the safety, permanency, and wellbeing of children in the local child welfare system of care. From the funds provided in Specific Appropriation 330, each lead agency shall submit a detailed spending plan, approved by its Board of Directors, to the Department for all projected expenditures for the fiscal year. The spending plan must demonstrate that core expenditures will not exceed the appropriated amount of core funding and reserves a certain amount of funding for unanticipated expenses. Each lead agency will receive its statutory two-month advance; however, the department shall not release additional funds until the department has reviewed and approved the lead agency's spending plan. At any point in time during the year, if a lead agency's actual expenditures project an end of year deficit; the lead agency must submit a revised spending plan to the department. The revised spending plan must reflect actions to be taken to remain within appropriated core funding for the remainder of the fiscal year.

From the funds in Specific Appropriations 330, 331, and 332, \$8,110,140 from the General Revenue Fund is provided for the expansion of eligibility for the Extended Maintenance Adoption Subsidy, Extended Guardianship Assistance Program, Postsecondary Education Services and Supports, and Aftercare Services. These funds are contingent upon the passage of HB 1083 and HB 631, or similar legislation, becoming a law.

### 331 SPECIAL CATEGORIES

GRANTS AND AIDS – ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

PAYMENTS AND MAINTENANCE SUBSIDIES

FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND..... 136,873,787

FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND..... 151,411,698

FROM WELFARE TRANSITION TRUST FUND..... 14,377,342

Funds in Specific Appropriation 331 are provided to community-based Care lead agencies for the payment of adoption assistance subsidies pursuant to section 409.166, Florida Statutes.

By April 30, 2025, the department shall perform a reconciliation of the funding appropriated and the projected expenditures for adoption assistance for each lead agency. Any projected year-end surplus of funding shall, if necessary, be reallocated to the lead agencies that are projecting a fiscal year-end deficit. Any unexpended funds, as determined by a reconciliation of the fiscal year-end actual expenditures, shall revert on June 30, 2025.

# CHS Legislative Priorities Impact -2024

## Expand Community Partnership Schools



- IMPACT: CHS advocated with various partners for a \$10.6M increase in current funding for Community Partnership Schools, **leading to a new budget of \$21.6M.**
  - This funding will be used to:
    - Expand the model to 8 new planning sites and secure funding for current planning sites.
    - Support workforce stability by increasing Community Partnership School coordinator salaries.
  - POLICY CHANGE: modification to statute on public school improvement includes additional time for community partnership schools in turn-around status.

## Strengthen Families Through Stabilized Workforce



- IMPACT: CHS advocated to keep families safe and together, when possible, as it is key to reducing trauma and improving child outcomes. Healthy Families Florida is a child abuse prevention program that assists parents who are experiencing stressful life situations and provides them the resources and tools to keep them self-sufficient and their children safe.
  - **\$2M in recurring funds was allocated to support Healthy Families Florida**

## Improve System Accountability & Reduce Harm to Children



- IMPACT: CHS advocated to legislative and executive branch leadership for statute changes 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. *CHS was unsuccessful in achieving this Legislative Priority, but a variety of methods and attempts were conducted.*

# 2025 Legislative Session Dates

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## Organization Session

November 19, 2024

## Interim Committee Weeks

January, 2025

February, 2025

**Session Begins – March 4, 2025**  
**Session Ends – May 2, 2025**