



## 2025 Legislative Agenda

*Children's Home Society of Florida's Board of Directors approved on 9/6/24*

The Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS) Board of Directors is proud of the successes during the 2024 Session. The outstanding efforts of our local and state leaders, advocates, team members, and volunteers are greatly appreciated. These efforts helped to advance necessary funding increases to support 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 2025 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 long-term access to services and supports for students and their families, which can positively impact their futures.

★ **CHS requests support to expand the Community Partnership Schools™ model throughout Florida.**

### **Protection for the System of Care**

Child Welfare Service Providers play a crucial role in the continuum of care for vulnerable children and families within our state. Disruptions to the local system of care due to changes in Community-Based Care (CBC) Lead Agencies can jeopardize the stability and continuity of services provided by these crucial stakeholders.

★ **CHS requests statutory change to establish mechanisms for fair and timely compensation for contracted services delivered by providers, in good faith, during disruptions to the system of care caused by closure of a community-based care lead agency.**



### **Children's Home Society of Florida Policy Statements of Support**

- **Promote a strong and stable workforce to best support and protect children and families.**
- **Elevate the need for quality early childhood development and the impact it has on a child's future success.**
- **Advance practices and resources needed by families to be engaged and involved in their child's well being.**
- **Increase access to and availability of behavioral health services for children and families .**
- **Ensure service providers are adequately funded to support quality programming, positive outcomes, and limit the risk and liability that jeopardizes a fair and healthy business environments.**