



2026 Legislative Agenda

Children's Home Society of Florida's Board of Directors approved on September 5th, 2025

The Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS) Board of Directors is proud of the successes during the 2025 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 2026 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 funding support to expand the Community Partnership Schools™ model throughout Florida**

Recovery of Unpaid Services Provided to Children in the Child Welfare System Following the Embrace Families CBC Closure

Children's Home Society of Florida was a provider of case management services in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole under contract with Embrace Families. Embrace Families notified DCF that they could not continue to serve as the lead agency in 2023. As Embrace Families closed, CHS was left with unpaid invoices totaling over \$1.3 million for services provided to children in the child welfare system.

 **CHS requests a non-recurring appropriation to recoup the funding for the services provided under the contract with Embrace Families**



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