

❖ **Child Care Affordability**

VOICES will support efforts to increase access and affordability to quality licensed child care for families with young children. These measures should support not only families, but child care employees, the facilities themselves, and investors in those facilities. These measures should support access to child care, school readiness, economic development, and Alabama's workforce. VOICES has an organizational goal of supporting a quality licensed child care system without exemptions that creates a two-tiered, inequitable standard.

❖ **Healthy Food Financing**

VOICES will support the continuation of the current HFFI funding and advocate for measures that support businesses, farmers, and projects that seek to bring healthy food to underserved communities. VOICES will continue to emphasize the importance of promoting public and private partnerships to continue to advance the conversation and solutions surrounding this work. Additional measures could include an increase in the overall funding level and raising the maximum amount awarded to strong applicants during the granting process.

❖ **First Class Pre-K Funding Increase**

VOICES will continue to support increases in state pre-k funding to stay on track with the Alabama School Readiness Alliance's 10-year plan to fully fund First Class Pre-K by 2022-23.

❖ **Home Visiting Funding Increase**

VOICES will support the Home Visiting program and advocate for increased funding.

❖ **Quality Mental Health Access in Schools**

VOICES will advocate for increased access, education and quality measures for mental health services in schools. These measures should assist students and by utilizing trained professionals to provide mental health services in public schools. In addition, we will support programs that train teachers and school administrators to identify and support students exhibiting behavior indicative of mental health instability.

❖ **Quality Healthcare for Children and Families**

VOICES supports access to quality health care for children and families, such as Medicaid expansion. Healthy, insured families will have a positive impact on the overall health of children in Alabama.