

The Alabama Kids Count Data Book reminds us that not every child in Alabama is given the same opportunity for success. With the changing demographics of Alabama's children and the smaller pool of workers, Alabama cannot afford to let any child fall behind. VOICES is dedicated to speaking out on behalf of Alabama's children with a special emphasis on children of color who are disproportionately impacted and under-resourced. We will advocate for policies of equity and inclusion with funding that creates opportunity for all Alabama children to have the best chance to succeed.

- ❖ **Support Medicaid expansion to provide health coverage for the 340,000 working Alabamians currently uninsured.**
- ❖ **Support increased funding for mental health services for Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR), Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADHM) and Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) that would increase access to services through their respective programs.**
- ❖ **Support the request of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) of \$49M to fund the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) that works with licensed childcare providers to improve the quality of care.**
- ❖ **Support the request of the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (DECE) to increase funding of the First Class Pre-K Program to add approximately 100 classrooms.**

### Other Important Opportunities:

- ❖ **Increase food security through expanded funding of the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI).**
- ❖ **Support expansion of access and affordability of broadband throughout the state which will improve access to resources and services for all Alabamians regardless of where they live.**
- ❖ **Support funding of the Child Care Workforce Stabilization Grant program to retain child care workers.**
- ❖ **Support a refundable tax credit to businesses that provide on-site child care or child care benefits to employees.**
- ❖ **Removal of Juvenile Court costs, fees and fines.**
- ❖ **Adopt new Child Passenger Safety Guidelines as presented by the National Highway Transportation and Safety Board.**

We strongly encourage you to visit our website at [www.alavoices.org](http://www.alavoices.org) and dig into the research published in VOICES' *Alabama Kids Count Data Book* and our County Profiles. Each of our priorities this year is shaped by specific indicators tracked at the state and county level. We continue to believe that better data informs better decisions and that which gets measured, gets changed.