2024 Policy Agenda

VOICES for Alabama's Children's vision is that all children are safe, healthy, educated, and economically secure so that they, their families, and our state can thrive. We believe all children deserve to live in a community that affirms their inherent value as members of the human family. We will advocate for policies of equity and inclusion that create opportunity for all Alabama children to have the best chance to succeed.

2024 Policy Priorities:

- **Close the Healthcare Coverage Gap**
  Support closing the healthcare coverage gap, including supporting Medicaid expansion and other measures because nearly 300,000 working Alabamians are without healthcare coverage.

- **Increase Mental Health Services and Resources for Children**
  Support measures to maintain and increase access to mental health services and resources for children 18 years old and younger.

- **Support Efforts to Improve the Child Care Industry**
  Support policy and programs that improve affordable, accessible, high-quality child care including a possible refundable tax credit tied to the state's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) to address challenges to workforce participation for working parents. Support and protect federal investments in policies and programs to stabilize child care and Head Start as states, including Alabama, identify long-term solutions for addressing workforce development and other industry obstacles.

- **Support Investments in Alabama's First Class Pre-K Program**
  Support investments in Alabama's First Class Pre-K Program to expand access to all four-year-olds whose families want them to participate**.**

Educational & Collaborative Support Opportunities:

- Understanding the impact that alternative tobacco/vaping products and other electronic devices have on the health and safety of children 18 years and younger, VOICES will monitor any proposed legislation and will support efforts determined to likely have a beneficial impact.

- Support increased access to food and/or food assistance programs that provide healthy food options for children and families including Healthy Food Financing Initiative, WIC, SNAP, School Nutrition, Double Bucks and Universal Breakfast.

- Support expansion and affordability of broadband services throughout the state, which will improve access to resources and services for all Alabamians regardless of where they live.

- Raise awareness about the need to adopt new Child Passenger Safety Guidelines as presented by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.