

The Annie E. Casey Foundation 2020 KIDS COUNT Data Book

Solutions and Strategies for Change

Solutions based on American values

The Casey Foundation offers several recommendations based on shared values of opportunity, responsibility and security. The Casey Foundation urges leaders — from the national and state level to counties, cities and other local settings — to act now to help families lift themselves out of these circumstances. Policies at the community, county and state levels that can have a significant impact on the lives of children in struggling families include:

- **EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY:**
 - Increase opportunity by expanding access to high-quality pre-k and early childhood services so that all children are prepared to succeed in school.
 - Build and support an early childhood care & education system as a public good open for all families regardless of income to support parents returning to work and school.
 - Allow for flexibility in training and school programs for parents to use resources as fit their life circumstances.
 - Implement a loan forgiveness program for early childhood professionals all over NYS with special attention to childcare deserts (definition here) for priority candidates.
 - Provide a tax credit for early childhood providers to improve their physical space and materials in efforts to incentivize improving quality of space and care provided.

- **ECONOMICS and COMMUNITY:**
 - Increase opportunity and transform struggling communities into safe and healthier places to live, work and grow.
 - Support new and emergent business models that allow for flexibility of childcare and parenting duties if schools are closed or online for extended time period(s).
 - Supporting development and property-ownership models that preserve affordable housing, such as community land trusts and limited-equity cooperatives.
 - Ending housing discrimination based on whether a person was formerly incarcerated or is using a federal housing voucher.
 - Assisting low-income residents in paying higher property taxes that often come with new development/redevelopment or with a family's relocation to a more affluent area.
 - Expanding workforce training that is targeted to high-poverty, low-opportunity communities.

- Requiring and incentivizing anchor institutions to hire locally and contract with businesses owned by women and people of color.
- Developing and funding small-business loan programs that serve entrepreneurs in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color — or people that traditional lenders tend to reject, such as individuals with poor credit or criminal records.

- LAW ENFORCEMENT & COMMUNITY
 - Promote the addition of social workers and psychiatric nurses in our local public safety departments. Allowing families who call for help with a loved one with mental illness or a domestic violence situation receive appropriate response and support.
 - Promote police-free schools. The time has come for this sea change.
 - Promote reimaging school safety from punishment with risk of bias to restorative and anti-racist policies and programs.

About the 2020 KIDS COUNT Data Book

The 31st edition of the *KIDS COUNT Data Book (The Data Book)* presents an assessment of American children’s well-being and describes how children were faring before the coronavirus pandemic. The 2020 KIDSCOUNT Data Book is available here, <https://bit.ly/3fQytgj>.

About the Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation’s children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit <http://aecf.org> and <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>. KIDS COUNT is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

About the NYS Council on Children and Families

The NYS Council on Children and Families is authorized to coordinate the state health, education and human services systems to provide more effective systems of care for children and families. For more NY child well-being data, visit <https://www.nyskwic.org>. Follow the Council on Twitter at @nysccf and bookmark our website, <http://www.nysccf.ny.gov>.